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GANDHI RESPONDS TO PAKISTANI NOTE VERBALLY

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 5 Jul 81 pp 1, 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 4.—Mrs Gandhi today sent a message to General Zia-ul-Haq, reassuring the Pakistani President of India's commitment to normalizing relations, while expressing serious concern at the inflow of sophisticated arms into Pakistan.

Mrs Gandhi hoped that Islamabad would not go in for more sophisticated arms which could exacerbate tension in the region.

The Prime Minister conveyed her verbal message through Mr Natwar Singh, India's Ambassador, who is returning to Islamabad tomorrow. General Zia had sent a verbal communication to Mrs Gandhi through Mr Singh, conveying certain assurances about Pakistan's arms acquisition.

Mr Singh met Mrs Gandhi for about 35 minutes today. He had called on her immediately after his arrival from Islamabad on Wednesday.

The External Affairs Ministry spokesman would not divulge the contents of Mrs Gandhi's message to President Zia but said that exchange of messages between the two leaders was part of a continuing dialogue for normalization of relations and for defusing tension in the region. It contained friendly sentiments towards Pakistan.

Mrs Gandhi is understood to have stated that India was watching very carefully the developing situation in the region. India had its own assessments about the induction of high levels of military technology into the region and its consequences. She is believed to have said that acquisition of sophisticated and offensive weapons such as U.S. F-16 fighter and missiles has caused concern here.

Mrs Gandhi is understood to have stated that while India remains firmly committed to further improving its relations with Pakistan, it has its own assessments about the inflow of arms at this critical time.

She has assured President Zia that India will spare no efforts to explore all possible avenues to set Indo-Pakistan friendship on a firm footing. Pakistan, too, has to reciprocate and ensure that nothing is one which might in any way lead to tension in the area.

Mrs Gandhi is believed to have touched upon the recent developments in the region and the high-level discussions Indian leaders have had with visiting dignitaries. She is also understood to have mentioned the talks Indian leaders have had with the Chinese Foreign Minister Mr Huang Hua, here.

Mrs Gandhi is understood to have said that growth of friendly relations between India and Pakistan will make a significant contribution to the creation of a healthier atmosphere in the region.

She hoped that the decisions taken during the recent visit of the External Affairs Minister, Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao, to Islamabad.

Mr Ajit Panja, West Bengal Congress (I) president, has suggested to Mrs Rajendra Kumari Vajpayee, Congress (I) general-secretary in charge of West Bengal affairs, to take up with the Election Commission the "deletion of names of genuine voters and inclusion of false voters in the voters' list in West Bengal" for the 1982 Assembly elections. He said on Saturday that despite his repeated requests, the State's chief electoral officer had not looked into his complaints.

He had suggested that the Election Commission be requested to send some officers to detect the alleged irregularities in the voters' list. The enumerators, he regretted, were selected from among the members of the Employees' Coordination Committee, which was affiliated to the CPI(M).

NATION TO REFUSE INVITATION TO MEETING ON AFGHANISTAN

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Jul 81 p 7

[Text] India will not participate in any international conference on Afghanistan and this decision will shortly be conveyed to the European Economic Community which has sponsored such a conference.

India had earlier refused to participate in a similar international conference on Kampuchea as it felt that it was aimed at restoring the reprehensible Pol Pot rule and destabilising the present government of Heng Samrin.

India is opposed to internationalisation of an essentially regional problem like the one in Afghanistan where it feels all forms of outside interferences--from the Soviet intervention to the interference by Afghanistan's two neighbours, notably Pakistan, in collaboration with Washington and Peking--must stop if stability and peace have to be restored. That is why it is in favour of regional talks as envisaged by Mr Babrak Kamal's 14 May proposals last year between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Afghanistan and Iran. The proposals could not be realised because the Islamabad authorities were reluctant to accept them, as they still dream of a military solution.

India wants a peaceful political settlement of the Afghan question through a regional bipartite or tripartite negotiations and for that purpose is in favour of renewed move in that direction.

If an international conference on Afghanistan is to be called, why not an international conference to discuss the Northern Ireland issue? And how would Britain, championing the cause of the international meet on Afghanistan, react to such a proposal? These questions are being asked by competent observers in this regard.

CSO: 4220/7187

DELHI, DACCA REPORTED ANXIOUS TO RESOLVE ISSUES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, July 5 (UNI)--Diplomatic moves are on between New Delhi and Dacca to bring about a high political-level meeting to resolve major outstanding issues between the two countries.

The contentious issue of the sharing of the Ganga waters and the delimitation of the maritime boundary, which have so far eluded solution, are likely to be thrashed out at proposed meeting.

The external affairs ministry and the Bangladesh foreign office are in touch with each other through diplomatic channels to finalise the dates of the visit of the Bangladesh foreign minister, Mr Shamsul Haq, to India in the near future.

According to informed sources, the two countries are now more than anxious to resolve the Farakka problem and the question of the delimitation of the maritime boundary between the two countries "in a spirit of mutual agreement, understanding and good neighbourly relations."

The sources said both countries were eager to remove any irritants that might exist between them and they seemed to be of the view that no negative feelings should be emphasised at the talks between the external affairs minister, Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao, and Prof. Shamsul Haq.

Besides making an earnest effort to search for new areas of agreements on the political front, the forthcoming talks are also likely to result in new understandings in bilateral economic cooperation and trade.

Both sides are agreed that since the joint rivers commission has failed to reach an agreement on sharing the Ganga waters, this question should now be tackled at the political level.

They are also considering a proposal for establishing a direct rail link with north-eastern Indian states through the Bangladesh territory. The two ministers are likely to discuss this question.

The proposal is for the movement of through goods trains from West Bengal to Tripura (Akhaura) and Latur (Assam-Karimganj). In February this year, Bangladesh had indicated its willingness to permit Indian goods trains to transit through Bangladesh, but the proposal was later put into deep freeze.

The trade between the two countries, which was at a low level from 1976 to 1979, picked up substantially from mid-1980. There are proposals to give a big push to bilateral trade during the next three years.

CSO: 4220/7195

POST-ASSASSINATION RELATIONS WITH DACCA ASSESSED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, July 7.

An Indian initiative for resumption of talks with Bangladesh to try to thrash out a solution to the long-standing bilateral problems with a regime which is struggling for survival is highly unlikely. Dacca too will not like to have any such parleys because of internal political compulsions.

Bangladesh's disinclination to reopen any kind of discussion with New Delhi at this stage was made quite clear recently by its foreign minister, Mr. Shamsul Haque. Shortly after the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman, Mr. Haque summoned a group of visiting Indian journalists early one morning to his office to announce that his scheduled visit to New Delhi would remain uncertain unless there was an "appropriate gesture" from India over the New Moore island in the Bay of Bengal.

Haque's Visit

Mr. Haque, it is needless to say, had little doubt that any gesture from India would not be forthcoming until the political situation in Bangladesh settled down with the successor to President Rahman firmly installed in office. His statement to the Indian journalists thus amounted to saying that an early visit to New Delhi by him could be ruled out.

Any suggestion for a resumption of talks with India can indeed be embarrassing for the Bangladesh ruling party which is now quite obviously drawing up its poll campaign plans, an important feature of which will most certainly be highlighting the vexed problems bedevilling relations with this country. An initiative for talks runs counter to the need of the moment.

From the Indian side, any move for opening talks would amount to investing the present regime with a credibility which it is yet to acquire. The present government will gain legitimacy only if it can successfully hold the presidential election and get the ruling party nominee, Mr. Abdus Sattar, elected as President. Whether it will be able to do so is yet to be seen.

Boycott Move

Mr. Sattar's nomination has to be legally validated through a constitutional amendment. The decision of the entire opposition to boycott the Parliament session as a protest against the amending bill may not prevent the passage of the measure in view of the ruling party's overwhelming majority. But it has provided the rebels in the BNP with an issue to launch a counter-attack on the ruling group over the nomination of Mr. Sattar.

It is known that the nomination of Mr. Sattar had been hustled through the party meeting and those who wanted to propose a rival candidate were not allowed to speak. The rebels, led by the two dismissed ministers, Maj.-Gen. Nurul Islam Shishu and Lt.-Col. Akbar Hossain, have since been looking for an opportunity to hit back.

The opposition of the rebels to the constitutional amendment may well signal a revolt whose consequences cannot be predicted. It adds to the uncertainties to the possibility of a peaceful election being held.

Overall, the situation is far from conducive for any meaningful dialogue being held on the Indo-Bangladesh problems which have defied a solution for more than a quarter of a century.

CSO: 4220/7248

INDIA

LOK DAL ASKS GANDHI, CHIEF MINISTERS TO RESIGN

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Jun 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, June 21 (UNI): The Lok Dal today called for the resignations of the Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, and the chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, following the election commission's directive for a repoll in the Garhwal parliamentary constituency.

Should they fail to resign, President Sanjiva Reddy should dismiss their governments forthwith, the Lok Dal said in a resolution adopted by its parliamentary board.

The resolution said the chief election commissioner, Mr S.L. Shakdher, by ordering a repoll in the Garhwal vindicated the charge of the opposition parties that last week's by-election to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies in U.P., Bihar and Orissa were neither free or fair.

The Janata party general secretary, Mr Ravindra Varma, has described the election commissioner's decision to order a repoll as "significant" and has suggested intensified efforts to achieve "effective and expeditious electoral reforms."

PTI adds:

The chief election commissioner, Mr S. L. Shakdher, after perusing documents shown by the U.P. chief minister on Sunday, expressed his satisfaction that there was no intention on the part of the state government not to provide a helicopter to the election commission team to visit some of the areas in Garhwal Lok Sabha constituency.

CSO: 4220/7085

GANDHI MEETS WITH AIDES TO DISCUSS NATION'S PROBLEMS

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Jul 81 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI July 8

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, had an informal meeting today with some of her senior Cabinet colleagues to share her thoughts and seek their views on the present state of the nation.

It was an unscheduled meeting without any agenda for exchanging ideas privately on how best the Government could tackle the many political, economic and sociological problems now facing the country with a proper set of priorities for achieving better results.

The select group of Ministers who participated in the discussion were quite understandably extremely circumspect about who said what at the conclave, but they were making no secret of the fact that Mrs. Gandhi was much more concerned than her critics at the tardy performance of the Government.

The purpose of the exercise was not merely to pinpoint the sources of failure, but also make a conscious effort to shed the psychology of helplessness in the negative atmosphere now prevailing in the country. It reflected the growing realisation in high circles that the restive ruling party was no less culpable than the obstreperous Opposition for the sad decline in the quality of public life which was sapping public confidence.

The Prime Minister has been cautioning her colleagues that the Congress (I) could no longer blame the Janata for the heavy backlog of unkept promises. The ruling party spent the first year of its return to power explaining away its own non-performance with the apologetic that it had to undo first the harm done by the Janata rule before

any positive steps could be taken to provide a better Government.

Non-governance

But in the second year of its rule this old argument is not carrying any conviction, since the country has to contend with the legacies of Congress (I)'s own non-governance. In another year's time the present Government would be half way through its five-year term and, if nothing is done to catch up with the lost time, it would be difficult to dispel the growing disillusionment during the second half of its tenure.

It is this realisation that is providing some sense of urgency to the steps the Centre now proposes to take in various fronts to give a better account of itself during the crucial months ahead, when the economy is bound to become worse before it can get better in the wake of the contemplated corrective measures.

The reports that the Government is thinking of importing wheat are causing the utmost damage to its prestige, after all the reassuring talk that India had emerged as one of the leading food powers in the wake of its green revolution.

Though the Prime Minister and her colleagues are keen on doing everything possible to create a feeling of better performance, there is no evidence of a matching determination to set the Congress (I) house in order to make the ruling party a worthy instrument of effective governance.

The party remains restive at the Centre with no proper sense of participation in the parliamentary process or in the sharing of the spoils of office. It is riven by factionalism in the States where the nominated Chief Ministers are unable to carry the rank and file with them.

But unfortunately no Central leaders feel strong enough, or bold enough, to speak out his mind to the Prime Minister even in a private conclave about such matters which are the root cause of the present unrest in the ruling party and ferment in the country.

Mrs. Gandhi, too, has not been giving enough thought to the pros and cons of the new Rajiv cut which is being exploited by some ambitious elements as a short-cut for their own self-promotion.

No frank debate

There is no tradition of a frank debate on such issues in the Congress hierarchy, or drawing attention to the consequences of patronage politics, without attributing motives. The result is that the leaders tend to beat about the bush without coming to the heart of any problem even in the privacy of a party conclave.

One of the problems facing Mrs. Gandhi in improving the performance of her Government is that many of those who opted for her during the second Congress split while she was out of office feel that they are entitled to be rewarded and shown special consideration. Though she is well aware of their foibles, she is not able to deal with them firmly because of these extenuating circumstances.

The performance of the Government cannot improve until the Prime Minister is able to enforce better standards both at the party and administrative levels for combining ability with integrity, without letting the less deserving acquire a vested interest in sharing the spoils of office. It is a difficult task in any democratic system and doubly so under present-day Indian conditions.

GANDHI REPORTEDLY URGED TO SHAKE UP STATE GOVERNMENTS

Madras THE HINDU (in English 5 Jul 81 p 12

[Article by G. K. Reddy: "Pressure on Mrs Gandhi for Shake-up in States"]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 4

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, is being urged by some of her close confidants to wield the big stick before it is too late and give the ruling party a better image by getting rid of those who have become political liabilities to her in various Congress (I)-run States.

There is considerable concern in the inner circles of the Congress (I) over the growing dearth, declining credibility and poor performance of some of the State Governments, which are able to cling to power largely because of Mrs. Gandhi's reluctance to administer the necessary shock treatment to them.

For some inexplicable reason, she has been very hesitant to act firmly to set matters right even in the States riven by open in-fighting and serious malpractices.

This very diffidence on her part to do anything to improve the quality of the State Governments is creating a feeling of immobility at the Centre itself with no sign of any impending moves to ease out even a few of those who have fallen far below her expectations.

The President, Mr. N. Sanjiva Reddy, is expected back in Delhi from his sojourn in Hyderabad on July 24 or 25 and is due to leave for London two days later. If he visits Ireland after the royal wedding, he will be back in Delhi just two days before he leaves for Indonesia on August 6 according to his present schedule.

So if Mrs. Gandhi does not go in for the long over-due Cabinet reshuffle at the Centre before the President leaves for London, then it will be too late to make any major changes on the eve of the monsoon session of Parliament. Hence the much-talked-of Cabinet reshuffle might end up with the addition of a few Ministers without dropping any from her present team.

But the focus at the moment is on the States rather than the Centre. The delay in taking corrective steps in States

like Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, not to speak of Maharashtra and Karnataka, is causing greater embarrassment to Mrs. Gandhi's leadership than her apparent disinclination to go in for any major changes at the Centre.

The Congress (I) is suffering from its own peculiar brand of domino theory, imagining that any strong action taken to displace a Chief Minister who has proved a failure would inevitably lead to a chain reaction in other States.

It is this laboured logic or psychology of escapism at the higher levels of the party leadership that is enabling some of the Chief Ministers to survive on borrowed time even after they have fallen from grace or forfeited the confidence of their colleagues.

Students' campaign: In the last few days the students from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have been making a beeline to Delhi to step up their campaign for early changes in their States.

The factionalism in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar has started surfacing again, while the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Karnataka have been fighting their own battles.

The Prime Minister felt at one stage that by personally visiting some of these States she would be able to deal with the situation on the spot by talking to the Chief Ministers and their detractors. But her visits have only sharpened the controversies and deepened the divisions in the ranks of the ruling party by encouraging the rival groups to mobilise support to demonstrate their strength to her.

The absence of talent in the ruling party has certainly been an inhibiting factor in opting for any drastic changes, but the unwillingness to even look around for men of integrity who can at least compensate for inexperience is frustrating the whole exercise. The big brooms are there, only there are no leaders ready to wield them.

EXPECTATIONS OF RAO MOSCOW VISIT EXAMINED

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Jul 81 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI July 2

The External Affairs Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, will be paying a visit to Moscow shortly for talks with the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Andre Gromyko, on what are described as matters of mutual interest.

The Moscow visit assumes some special significance in the wake of the Chinese Foreign Minister's trip to Delhi and Mr. Narasimha Rao's own visit to Pakistan.

The Moscow visit can take place only by the middle of the month at the earliest depending on Mr. Gromyko's convenience. The necessary dates are being discussed through diplomatic channels and the Soviet Embassy in Delhi is keen that Mr. Narasimha Rao should pay this visit soon.

Apart from exchanging views on the latest Sino-Indian moves for a dialogue on the border question, Mr. Narasimha Rao will have the opportunity to discuss the latest Soviet thinking on Afghanistan. The US decision to rearm Pakistan is directly linked with the developments in that country and whatever the Soviet Union does, or does not do, in the context has a direct bearing on the new tensions now developing in the sub-continent.

Not happy over Soviet stance

Apart from assuring Mr. Gromyko that India will do nothing in its dealings with China to dilute its friendship with the Soviet Union, Mr. Narasimha Rao will try to urge the Soviet Government to take some initiative to open the way for a political settlement on Afghanistan.

Though India does not consider the new EEC proposal for an international conference the best way of tackling

the Afghan problem, it is not happy either with the present Soviet stance of sitting pretty until the rest of the world is ready to deal with the Babrak Karmal government.

EEC has kept India informed of its proposal and the decision to depute the British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington to Moscow to sound the Soviet Union, just as ASEAN took it into confidence about its bid for an international conference on Kampuchea under UN auspices. The Indian policy is to keep away from both these conferences since they are not likely to contribute to a solution of either problem.

After his visit to Washington in April for talks on the US bid to arm Pakistan, the Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr. Eric Gonsalves, went to Moscow in May ostensibly for inspecting the Indian Embassy establishment there. But he met the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Gromyko, and the First Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Matsev, for talks on the same subject.

PM's trip at a later stage

Mr. Narasimha Rao, is now going to Moscow within two months of Mr. Gonsalves' visit for follow up discussions. It is considered quite possible that he will have the opportunity to call on Mr. Brezhnev himself with a message from Mrs. Gandhi, who herself is planning a trip to Moscow at a later stage.

Apart from assuaging Moscow's fears about the impact of Sino-Indian normalisation on Indo-Soviet relations, Mr. Narasimha Rao will try to impress on the Kremlin that the continued Soviet presence in Afghanistan was proving counter-productive to the point of provid-

ing an excuse to the US to intensify its own military power and create problems for other countries in the region.

The Indian view is that whatever the initial provocation or justification for its intervention, the very prolongation of the Soviet presence in Afghanistan is a self-defeating exercise.

Unfortunately, Soviet leaders who are used to viewing such situations through their own blinkers do not generally countenance such advice. They will certainly listen patiently to what Mr. Narasimha Rao has to say on behalf of Mrs. Gandhi but are not likely to budge from their own set course of action.

But nevertheless India feels that it is an effort worth making even if it does not yield any immediate results. It owes to itself to forewarn the Soviet Union about the consequences of a further prolongation of its military presence in Afghanistan, which was affecting the delicate regional balances and generating fresh tensions in the sub-continent.

The Indian envoy in Islamabad, Mr. Nishwar Singh, who is now in Delhi for consultations, has not come with any startling message from Gen. Zia-ul-Haq to Mrs. Gandhi other than a renewed plea for better understanding and reiteration of the usual assurances that the new American arms will not be used against India since Pakistan has nothing to gain by engaging in a new conflict.

The Pakistani leader, who has had occasion to discuss the new Chinese approach to India with the visiting Premier, Mr. Zhou Ziyang, in Islamabad only last month, is reported to have welcomed the current Sino-Indian moves for better relations.

WRITER DESCRIBES STATE OF INDO-PRC RELATIONS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Jul 81 p 8

[Article by Inder Malhotra: "India-China Relations: Beyond the Huang Hua Visit"]

[Text] While discussing the outcome of Mr Huang Hua's visit to this country there is no point in going over the ground that has been well trodden before. Indeed, much of what happened during his talks with Mr Narasimha Rao is already public knowledge, thanks largely to the Chinese penchant for "open negotiations" except where secrecy suits China's purpose, as during Mr Kissinger's hush-hush dash to Beijing.

Interestingly, many of the visiting Chinese foreign minister's public statements in New Delhi--at his press conference, during the banquet speech and on other occasions--read like a word-perfect repetition of what he said to his Indian opposite number at the conference table. The Indian side, too, has broadly conveyed to the public its side of the story though more through background briefings than through direct official statements.

Even so, there are several significant nuances of the three rounds of talks between the two foreign ministers, climaxed by a 90-minute meeting between Mrs Gandhi and Mr Huang, which need to be noticed. For these help put in perspective the positive but limited outcome of the visit and might even provide clues to the shape of things to come, now that the two sides have agreed to seek a speedy solution of the all-important border issue.

Anxious

In the first place, if the Chinese stuck to their technique of negotiating as if in a glass house, they noticeably refrained from bringing into play another of their negotiating doctrines under which polemics are considered an integral part of diplomacy. The cordial tone of talks was never marred even by the slightest touch of polemics.

Secondly, even when there was a complete divergence of perception and approach between the two sides--as, for instance, on the Soviet Union, the Afghan crisis and Kampuchea--the Chinese, after saying their piece and listening to the Indian exposition, made no further comment.

Thirdly, Mr Huang and his aides went out of their way to emphasise China's stakes in peace, stability and cooperation in the Indian subcontinent. Though they did not mention Pakistan by name even once, they stated that the same message had been delivered to three of India's neighbours visited recently by the Chinese prime minister, Mr Zhao Ziyang. And they never tired of stressing that India was south Asia's biggest and most important country and therefore its responsibility was greater.

A fourth strand in China's new stance towards this country was projected not by Mr Huang but by his charming wife, Madame He Liliang, a professional diplomat in her own right. In her talks with senior Indian officials, she underscored that as the two largest third-world countries, India and China had a stake in taking a joint stand on all issues of concern to the third world, especially in the North-South dialogue on a just international economic order.

Altogether, the Chinese side seemed anxious to create the impression that it was sincere in its desire for normalisation and improvement of relations with India. At the same time it clearly treated the present visit as an exploratory one, carefully avoiding statements that might be construed a commitment on any specific issue of importance. It was not merely that Mr Huang refrained from either repeating Mr Deng Xiaoping's offer of a package deal on the border or making any other suggestion himself, leaving the issue to be discussed in depth "at an appropriate level and an appropriate time." He also did not react when two critically important points were made to him by Mr Narasimha Rao though he listened with great attention.

The first of these was that peace, stability and cooperation in the Indian subcontinent would be best preserved and promoted if the area was left alone not only by the two super-powers but also "others." Secondly, the foreign minister drove home the pertinent point that on all issues of great concern to China, such as Tibet, Taiwan, its membership of the U.N. and so on, India had never changed its principled stand irrespective of the state of India-China relations but on matters of equally vital concern to this country, the Chinese stand tended to vary according to the state of Sino-Indian relations at a given time.

In view of this, the question can arise--it has indeed been raised by some already--whether the present Chinese interest in good relations with India would be enduring. What lends an edge to the question is China's demonstrable belief in the dictum that consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds.

After all, if within eight hours of Gen. Alexander Haig's departure from Beijing--after a visit during which the two sides proclaimed that their strategic interests converged all along the line and the U.S. secretary of state promised to sell China arms--the Chinese could publish a major article hinting at an opening towards the Soviet Union, cannot things change vis-a-vis this country?

Search

Perhaps they can. But the internal debate within the Chinese leadership, which has just ended in an apparently narrow victory for Mr Deng, has much greater relevance to China's troubled and triangular relationship with the U.S. and the Soviet Union than to India-China relations on which there seems to be a consensus.

After all, it was the now demoted Mr Hua Guofeng who issued the invitation to the then Indian prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, to visit China.

Moreover, the geo-strategic and other compulsions which have persuaded China to have a second look at its India policy are unlikely to disappear quickly. Above all quite apart from international and regional considerations, friendly India-China relations have an intrinsic merit of their own which cannot be lost sight of.

It is against this backdrop that the search for a durable basis for friendship between India and China, for which the Delhi talks at the foreign ministers' level have paved the way, is eminently worth pursuing in all earnestness.

No longer is the border issue sought to be shelved. At the same time movement in other areas, such as cultural exchanges, trade and economic or technical co-operation, is not being delayed until the boundary question is out of the way. Progress in all directions is to be attempted at the same time though it is clearly understood by both sides that, in the final analysis, progress in every direction will be conditioned by the progress made in settling the key issue of the border.

Mrs Gandhi summed up the situation succinctly when she told Mr Huang Hua that in order to solve the border issue it was necessary to improve the general atmosphere between the two countries but there could be no real improvement in the atmosphere unless there was visible progress towards a settlement of the border issue. Hence the emphasis not only on an early solution of the border problem but also on periodic reviews of the entire range of India-China relationship.

Message

It is also noteworthy that during the Delhi talks, Mr Huang Hua was left in no doubt that by its handling of the border issue in the past China had deeply wounded the national sentiment in this country. It is in this context perhaps that he mentioned national feelings on both sides as one of the three factors that should govern future negotiations on the subject.

In order to ensure that the substantive border negotiations between India and China are purposeful and productive, the public and media in this country will have to behave with greater restraint and maturity than they have hitherto done in relation to China. There is no question of the government agreeing to anything with China behind the people's collective back. But to rely on worthwhile negotiations can be carried on if the government is constantly subjected to loud and contradictory pressures and forced to disclose its hand at every stage.

An old China hand has recently spoken of the India-China dialogue as an encounter between a noisy and a silent society. Some of the disadvantages to this country of such an unequal encounter are already evident. The Chinese, for instance, are able to manipulate the public opinion here or exploit the possibility of appealing to the people over the government's head.

A lot worse, however, is the cacophony that diverse, often rival, pressure groups tend to keep up. The Communist Party of India and others allied to it, for instance, are proclaiming that this country should have no truck with China. In this, these friends of the Soviet Union are outdoing even Moscow which has a better understanding of New Delhi's policy towards Beijing.

But the pro-Soviet lobby is not the only one to be unduly active. The pro-China, pro-Pakistan and pro-U.S. lobbies, which broadly overlap, are no less brisk in their activity, their message, in effect, being that whatever China offers must be accepted without question. India's problems need to be looked at from India's point of view, not that of any other country. The time has perhaps come when this country, particularly its intellectuals and opinion-makers, can do with the services of a pro-India lobby.

CSO: 4220/7170

SPECIAL ENVOYS DISCUSS TOPICS FOR NORTH-SOUTH PARLEY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Jun 81 p 3

[Text] India is sending special envoys to several African West Asian and Latin American countries to seek their views on important international economic subjects likely to come up at the forthcoming mini-summit to be held in Mexico on North-South dialogue, reports UNI.

The special envoys will be carrying with them comprehensive notes on major subjects like food, monetary issues, trade, protectionism, restructuring of international economic order, transfer of technology and exploitation of energy resources for discussions with the leaders of developing countries.

This major exercise is being undertaken by the Government in a bid to present a united stand by the developing countries at the summit and persuade the rich nations which had long been exploiting the developing countries to help the economies of the Third World which were at the brink of collapse.

According to official sources there are great limitations at the summit as it is restricted to only 23 countries. The summit is not totally represented and moreover in two days not many subjects could be dealt with adequately.

Therefore, the thinking here is that comprehensive notes should be prepared in advance and circulated among all the participants.

In preparation for the summit, the Foreign Ministers of all participating countries will meet in Mexico on 1 and 2 August when details will be discussed and the agenda of the meeting decided. They would also discuss other modalities.

Several meetings have taken place between the top officials of the Ministry of External Affairs and other economic Ministries. Indian teams will be visiting Bangladesh, Nigeria, Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Venezuela shortly to elicit the views of these countries.

CSO: 4220/7080

DELHI STUDIES INFORMATION ON U.S. ARMS TO PAKISTAN

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Jul 81 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, July 9.

Apart from four squadrons of F-16s and other supporting equipment for the Pakistani Air Force, the U.S. proposes to supply nearly 500 refurbished M-60 tanks, an equal number of armoured personnel carriers, about 500 to 600 artillery pieces, 1000 to 2000 anti-tank guided missiles, 30 to 50 helicopter gunships and a lot of sophisticated electronic equipment for the Pakistani Army as part of its three billion dollar, five-year military aid package.

This disconcerting information has become available through various sources and is being checked and cross-checked by India to get an idea of the proposed U.S. military aid programme for Pakistan.

The Pakistani Army which has increased its strength in the last 10 years from 10 to 19 infantry divisions, has two armoured divisions, four independent armoured brigades, five independent artillery brigades, 33 armoured regiments and 107 artillery regiments at present.

It has about 1600 tanks some of which are either obsolescent or obsolete and in the process of being refurbished or phased out.

The induction of nearly 500 reconditioned American-made M-60 tanks which are being replaced by the latest XM-1s by the U.S. Army will enable Pakistan over the next few years to improve its fire-power considerably by re-equipping some of its front-line armoured units.

But an equally significant accretion would be the supply of another 500 armoured personnel carriers for its infantry to supplement the 900 now in its service.

New strategy: The Pakistani deployment of both its armoured divisions and 12 of its 19 infantry divisions on India's borders is based on the new strategy of treating its forward cantonments as operational bases for marching out from the barracks straight to the battlefield in the event of another conflict.

The paramilitary formations have also been integrated with the regular Army and placed under a unified command to ensure better coordination.

The Pakistani Army, which used to have only two infantry divisions deployed on the Afghan front, has now the equivalent of four divisions with two in Baluchistan and another two in the North-West Frontier Province, besides one division in the Gilgit region. But it has the advantage of nearly 80 battalions of frontier corps numbering roughly 80,000 men deployed all along the Afghan border with NWFP and Baluchistan.

There are, in addition to the two armoured and 12 infantry divisions on the Indian borders, a large number of Pak Rangers, mujahids and do-ordie janbad units totaling altogether 120 battalions. These paramilitary units function in close concert with the regular Army, using at the lower and middle levels the same grades of weapons.

The Pakistani Air Force has built a dozen new airfields close to the Indian border in recent years, which are to be used as advance operational bases for both bombing attacks and close air support to the ground troops in the event of a conflict.

But the main Pakistani airfields continue to be located at some distance from the border as a matter of abundant precaution against any interdictory action.

Though there is quiet confidence in India that it would be able to cope with this threat, there is a feeling of dismay in Delhi over the pointless arms race that is bound to develop in the subcontinent in the wake of the American bid to rearm Pakistan.

But if India has to pay the price, it is prepared to do so to ensure its security. And the necessary steps are being taken to meet the requirements of the armed forces.

CSO: 4220/7264

'APPLE' LAUNCHING DEMONSTRATES NATION'S CAPABILITIES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Jun 81 p 8

[Editorial: "APPLE in the Sky"]

[Text] The successful launch of APPLE, India's first geostationary communications satellite, is a landmark in the history of both European Space Agency and this country's space research organisation (ISRO). In thrust and other parameters, ESA's powerful rocket, Ariane, which hurled APPLE into orbit on Friday--along with its own weather satellite and a technological payload--rivals the sophisticated launchers developed by the super-powers for their space Odysseys. But like APPLE, it is still in an experimental stage. An earlier flight of Ariane had failed due to technical snags and even Friday's blast-off was preceded by agonising delays. If all goes well, APPLE will enable the country within a few weeks to set up experimental telephonic, audio and video links via space. Specifically, it is designed to pave the way for a nationwide television hookup, speedier delivery of telegraphic messages to remote areas and beaming of educational TV programmes. But whether it will actually accomplish all that is expected of it is, understandably, dogged by doubts. Though most of the components required to assemble it have been imported, its design and fabrication have been wholly indigenous. A major test of its performance will be when its apogee motor, meant to boost it from an elliptical to a circular, geostationary orbit is fired on Monday or a few days later. A similar motor had reportedly failed to function normally in July last year when India's own four-stage rocket put Rohini into a higher orbit than expected. The opening subsequently of APPLE's high-precision antenna, designed to point perpetually towards Nagpur, will be another key manoeuvre. The recent failure of ISRO's Rohini-2 mission has only enhanced the suspense and uncertainty surrounding its latest space venture.

Whatever the outcome, there can be no doubt that the country has developed the expertise and the confidence to build and operate communications satellites on its own. It is now only a matter of time. Instead of trying to develop every component from scratch, ISRO has widely concentrated on a few critical areas where foreign help is either impossible to secure or carries an unacceptable political or financial price tag. Thus its scientists at Thumba have evolved processes for the manufacture of a highly specialised liquid fuel called UDMN--a sensitive item whose export has been banned by the U.S.--and achieved spectacular results in the designing of inertial guidance systems, electronic processors and avionics. But they cannot afford to ignore the fact that most of the technological inputs necessary for progress in aeronautics and rocketry are either common or complementary and that the country does not have enough money or manpower to duplicate its efforts. Greater coordination between ISRO and the Defence Research and Development Organisation is evidently needed.

NATIONAL PAPER FOR U.N. SPACE PARLEY REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Jul 81 p 9

[Article by L. K. Sharma: "India for Ban on Killer Satellites"]

[Text] New Delhi, July 1--India has called for a ban on weapons in outer space. The present U.N. treaty prohibits the use of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction but does not cover other destructive weapons such as killer satellites.

India has expressed the fear that the military uses of outer space might even prevent any agreement on the definition of a boundary between "air" and "outer space."

It has also called for a regulatory mechanism to avert the danger of a few countries monopolising the applications of space technology for the exploitation of less privileged states.

In a national paper submitted for the second U.N. conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, to be held next year, India has warned against the dangers of excessive technological dependence on any state.

A certain independence of an individual country's space programme would also appear essential in view of "an increasing geopolitical trend toward the use of high technology as a weapon," it has said.

"Indian experience on such dependence in some cases has been quite bitter, bilateral international agreements notwithstanding. Such a thing could well extend even towards jamming and shutting down of transponders on board satellites."

India has said that rapid advances in space technology, with considerable potential to benefit all of mankind, could also lead to greater imbalances, if a few nations are allowed to monopolise this field. For example, fairly accurate crop estimates based on data from meteorological and remote-sensing satellites could be misused by vested commercial interests in an advanced state.

Likewise, with high-power communications satellites, some nations may dump radio and television programmes on other nations which may be incapable of retaliating in kind or jamming the unwanted messages.

Then, with a very large number of space transportation system launches, the danger of atmospheric and stratospheric pollution would be very real. If solar power from space becomes economical, a few space powers may have a virtual monopoly in this crucial area.

The Indian paper says that various kinds of checks and balances and appropriate regulatory mechanisms would be necessary to protect the interests of nations other than space powers.

CSO: 4220/7170

INDIA

NEW COOPERATION PACT WITH EEC SIGNED IN BRUSSELS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Jun 81 p 7

[Text] Relations between India and the European Economic Community (EEC) basically pulted to trade matters will now be widened to cover commercial and economic cooperation, reports PTI.

An agreement which Minister of State for Commerce Khurshid Alam Khan signed at the EEC headquarters in Brussels on Tuesday makes this possible and is hailed as a new milestone in mutual relations. Under it the EEC will provide India the 'most-favored nation' status for the next five years.

The accord is designed to replace a 1913 pact concerned purely with trade.

The new agreement also encourages industrial technical and scientific cooperation between the two countries.

A joint commission will be established to promote and keep under review the various cooperation activities envisaged in the agreement and to provide a forum for consultation between the parties.

Under the new agreement India and the Community undertake to cooperate in industry in the development of new technologies and in the field of energy. India will get more development aid than before from the Common Market.

In terms of trade volume, EEC is India's largest export market with 26 per cent of all exports, while 31 per cent of India's imports come from the EEC.

CSO: 4220/7096

CPI-M CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETS IN CALCUTTA

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Jul 81 p 9

[Text]

MADRAS July 2

The Central Committee of the CPI (M) which concluded its five day session at Calcutta last week, demanded the withdrawal of the Ray Commission appointed by the Central Government to go into the allegations regarding the transport of rectified spirit from Tamil Nadu to Kerala.

A resolution adopted by the Committee and released to the Press here said the appointment of the Commission proved conclusively the "political motivation and blackmarketing" tactics of the Congress (I) Government at the Centre.

It also pointed out that the Congress (I) Government appointed Sarkaria Commission to go into certain charges against Mr. M. Karunanidhi and some erstwhile Ministers of the DMK Government, initiated cases based on its findings when the DMK was opposed to it,

but chose to withdraw the cases soon after the DMK leader "surrendered" to Mrs. Gandhi.

The meeting expressed concern over the hike in prices of essential commodities and the resultant misery of the people and attributed it to the Central Government's "pro-big trader as well as its inflationary policies".

It resolved to support the programme of the National Convention of Trade Unions to observe in this regard a one-day token strike throughout the country, the date of which was to be announced later.

The committee hoped that the contacts re-established between India and China following the visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Huang Hua, would be followed up step by step towards the restoration of normal relations between the two countries and finding of gradual solution to all outstanding problems.

CSO: 4220/7180

CPI-M, SOCIALIST LEADERS MEET IN CALCUTTA

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Jul 81 p 9

[Text]

THE CPI(M) leader, Mr Promode Dasgupta, told Mr Raj Narain the All-India Socialist Party leader when he visited his office on Alimuddin Street, Calcutta, on Monday that while his party would not have an alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party it has no hesitation in siding with the BJP on specific issues.

If there was a no-confidence motion in Parliament against the Indira Government moved by the BJP or a symposium organized to oppose the presidential form of Government, the CPIM, Mr Dasgupta pointed out, would surely support it. There was no point in having a purist approach, he explained.

Unfortunately, he said, the BJP was not uniformly anti-Indira. In Kerala, for instance, the party was supporting the Congress (I). There were reports that it had opposed Mr Bahuguna in the Garhwal by-election.

Asked about the AISP's request to include it as a Left Front constituent, Mr Dasgupta said that the AISP was now a close ally of the Front.

Mr Raj Narain, he said, had

told him about his plan to unite the former socialists all over the country in a single socialist party. He had called a convention in Lucknow for that purpose. Mr Biran Mitra, the West Bengal Socialist Party leader, met him in the morning.

The AISP leader said at a Press conference that all Opposition parties should unite to oppose the misrule of Mrs Gandhi's Government. The BJP could be included only if it severed its ties with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

The West Bengal Congress (I) president, Mr Ajit Panja, has claimed that his party would expose the "unholy alliance of Mr Bahuguna, Mr Raj Narain and Mr Promode Das Gupta." He said that it was not surprising that Mr Bahuguna and Mr Raj Narain had gone straight to Mr Das Gupta with their professed mission of saving democracy. "Leaders of opportunist parties are meeting the leader of another opportunist party. They have come here only for further destabilization of eastern India. The Congress (I) will resist these reactionary forces," he added.

CSO: 4220/7200

CPI-M CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSION TOPICS NOTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Jun 81 p 6

[Text] Calcutta, June 20. Some of the unresolved inner-party controversies, mainly related to tactical issues, are expected to liven up the four-day session of the CPM central committee, scheduled to be held here from June 24. These, again, have arisen out of the decisions of the party plenum in Howrah in 1978.

The party leadership does not appear to feel perturbed because the controversies have persisted for a long time. They will still be left open after the Calcutta session of the central committee, since they have remained confined mostly to the level of the central committee and have not percolated down the organisation.

Before the central committee will be a document, to serve as the basis for discussion, prepared on the basis of reports from the state committees on the progress of the implementation of the Howrah plenum decisions along with a general summing up, which, party sources say, brings out the outstanding differences, including an important formulation that front bodies should get rid of coterie rule and make themselves really mass based.

But the differences, as it appears, do no longer divide the party as between the West Bengal state committee and the rest of the organisation in other states, but cut across state committee barriers. In other words, the West Bengal committee as well in this regard.

The main controversy revolves round the party's central political slogan for left and democratic unity and, more precisely, the composition of this united front.

This issue is also central to the other plenum decision for enlarging the party base in the Hindi belt, which apparently has not made as much headway as the plenum had envisaged. While the critics of the West Bengal committee's stand are inclined to blame this failure mainly on the party's reluctance on building up stable bridges with parties like the Congress(U) in West Bengal and other states so as to take advantage of such association to forge ahead in the Hindi belt, the West Bengal unit holds fast the view that unless class-based organisations can be built up in these areas, no breakthrough is possible.

The other controversies relate to norms and forms of organisation. There were complaints at Howrah plenum about the growth of bureaucratic attitudes and such other blemish to affect party life and functioning. These, again, are to be discussed in the light of the state committee reports.

Since the central committee is meeting after about three months, with the recent by-elections intervening, the committee is likely to have a general discussion on the emerging political scene in India and the party's role on it, especially whether this role needs any change in terms of emphasis.

Two immediate issues, which may come up in this particular context, relate to Mrs Anwara Taimur's renewed request for the left parties' direct or indirect support to her government in Assam during the planned trial of strength in the legislature shortly, and the Centre's decision to set up a commission to inquire into the "spirit scandal" concerning Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The Kerala chief minister, Mr E. K. Nayanar, is expected here on Tuesday.

The party's highest policy making body has not discussed recently any ideological issue. But in view of some latest international developments, involving the Soviet Union and China, the committee might feel obliged to clarify its views on both countries. This is expected all the more in view of the party hoping to get an invitation to visit Beijing for formal inter-party discussions. The politburo's two-day session precedes that of the central committee.

CSO: 4220/7081

CPI MEMBERS' 21 JUN CONVENTION OUTCOME REPORTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Jun 81 p 7

[Text] Calcutta, June 20--A convention of about one thousand members of the CPI held at the Clem Browne Institute here today demanded of the CPI leadership to immediately initiate a discussion with Mr S. A. Dange, so as to re-establish party unity on the basis of Marxism and Leninism.

There were 876 delegates at the convention. A three-member presidium comprising Mr Krishna Bionode Roy, Mr Deben Das, founder of the Communist movement in Midnapur district and Mr Anil Bhanja conducted the work of the convention.

A resolution adopted at the convention said the Communists should uphold the positive aspects of the Indian foreign policy and mobilise the people against attacks on these by imperialists and Maoists.

It also said that notwithstanding some halting criticisms of the China line, the CPM in the country essentially remained a Maoist disruptionist party. The resolution criticised the CPI leadership because it was surrendering to the CPM blackmail. The resolution said that CPI leadership was pursuing a clearly liquidationist line.

The resolution of Mr S. A. Dange criticised and condemned the CPI national council for expelling Mr D. K. Basu from the primary membership of the party.

Those who addressed the convention included Mr Kiron Shankar Singha Roy, Mr Staya Ghosal, Mr Tarun Kumar Das, Mr Netai Pada Sarkar.

CSO: 4220/7083

CPI SECRETARIAT LAUDS CHANDRA, PROTESTS SANJAY STAMP

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Jun 81 p 7

[Text] The Indian people and the Communist Party of India regard Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's presentation of the Order of Lenin to World Peace Council president Romesh Chandra as an honour for the country as a whole.

Making this observation, the CPI's Central Secretariat on Friday warmly congratulated Mr Chandra, a leading member of the party, on the occasion.

Mr Chandra was decorated with the award--the highest in the USSR on Thursday in Moscow for his "outstanding contribution in the struggle for world peace and security of peoples".

"The Communist Party of India is proud that under Comrade Romesh Chandra's stewardship the world peace movement has become a broad-based organisation of all lovers of peace, including national liberation movements and peoples of developing countries fighting against the conspiracies of the imperialists," the CPI Secretariat said.

Sanjay Stamp

In another statement, the CPI condemned the "unseemly action" of the Central Government in deciding to release a multi-colour postal stamp commemorating the first death anniversary of Mr Sanjay Gandhi.

The party's Central Secretariat pointed out that the late Mr Gandhi "has not done any outstanding service for the country."

The CPI considered the Government's decision all the more appalling in the backdrop of its refusal to similar honour the services rendered by great revolutionaries like Chandra Shekhar Azad, veteran revolutionary Tralokyanath Chakravarty (Maharaj) and Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayan who selflessly devoted their entire lives for national independence.

In this setting, the Secretariat felt the incident provided one more instance of the Government "flouting the healthy democratic traditions of our country for the sake of building up the family cult."

CSO: 4220/7080

MEETING BETWEEN BAHUGUNA, CPI-M LEADER REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Jul 81 p 3

[Text]

MR. Promode Dasgupta, the CPI(M) leader, suggested to Mr H. N. Bahuguna when he visited his party office in Alimuddin Street on Thursday that he should hold a convention in Delhi and later in the State capitals in the Hindi belt to warn the people against the danger to democracy posed by the authoritarian forces in Delhi. Mr Bahuguna had earlier met several CPI leaders.

Mr Dasgupta also told Mr Bahuguna to expose the magnitude of "rigging" by the Congress (I) in the Garhwal by-election by publishing thousands of pamphlets in English and Indian languages. The people, he added, should know the nature of the Indira Government.

Mr Bahuguna later said that the Leftists were very conscious of the dangers to democracy and so he had come to meet the Leftist leaders. The issue was not the Garhwal election but how the right to

vote, the greatest boon of democracy, was denied. Describing himself as a lone marcher over the past 14 months he said that he needed cooperation from those who were fighting authoritarian forces.

Referring to the Rajya Sabha election results and the victory of the Independent candidate, Mr Sankar Prasad Mitra, Mr Dasgupta said it was unfortunate that even those who called themselves anti-Congress (I) finally supported the Congress (I) because of their rabid anti-Left attitude. Mr Mitra was such an instance. It was curious that he had never clearly stated his stand regarding the Presidential form of Government or subversion of the judiciary.

There was a danger, he added, of forming an anti-Left platform with those parties which had voted for Mr Mitra. But the people of West Bengal were too politically conscious to be drawn to it.

CSO: 4220/7178

PAKISTANI SPY CASES REPORTED IN DELHI, KASHMIR

Spies Convicted in Delhi

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Jul 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] Nine persons, including a Pakistani national, were on Thursday found guilty of spying for Pakistan by Delhi's Additional Sessions Judge M K Chawla, reports PTI.

Mr Chawla, in his 175-page judgment, held Mohammad Saddique alias Saddique of Lahore Salauddin, Mohammad Hanif, Taj Mohammad, Babbaf Syed Akhtai Hussain, Mohammad Farooq, Sirajuddin and Saddique Hafiz guilty of criminal conspiracy and offences under the Official Secrets Act. Saddique of Pakistan was also found guilty under the Foreigners Act.

Mr Chawla observed that the "conduct" of Saddique and the 'part played' by other co-accused of "harbouring, giving shelter and concealing the identity of the Pakistani agent lead to the only plausible inference that all of them were the action members of the conspiracy to do espionage work for Pakistan in the name of Islam."

The court acquitted Quamruddin, Master Ismail, Haroon and Lula as there was insufficient evidence against them.

While Saddique (Pakistani) and Salauddin have been in custody since their arrest in 1976, the other 11 were on bail during the trial.

Mr B R Handa, special public prosecutor, urged the court to award the maximum punishment of 14 years rigorous imprisonment to the accused so that it would prove a deterrent to others indulging in such nefarious activities.

Mr Handa further submitted that the accused had committed the offence after deliberate planning and deliberations both in Pakistan and India. The spies had been collecting information in India relating to military secrets of vital importance and supplying it to Pakistan which had twice been at war with India.

Prize Catch

The spying ring was busted by the counter-espionage branch of the Delhi Police on 8 October, 1976 with the arrest of Salauddin in Delhi.

His arrest and interrogation led to the arrest of the others. The 'prize catch' of Saddique (Pakistani) was made on 9 November, 1976 from the walled city. All the accused had been nabbed by December, that year, Mr Handa submitted.

The nine persons convicted had during the course of investigations made confessional statements of their roles in the spying operation.

According to Mr Handa, the Pakistani agent used to enter India clandestinely through the Indo-Pak border near Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan, meet his local agents, collect information and then after sending it across through a courier return home. Saddique made ten trips to India between 1972 and 1976 when the spying ring was busted.

Saddique, according to Mr Handa, was helped in entering India through the desert border by Fattu a Pakistan armyman.

After completing his assignment in India, Saddique used to return via Sri Ganganagar to Pakistan with Fattu waiting across the border to escort him home, according to the prosecution.

The prosecution said Saddique used to bring with him to India a specially designed camera with which he took pictures of Indian airfields, military installations and radar stations in Punjab and Rajasthan.

Mr Chawla, in his judgment, observed that "the intention of collection and passing on information to Pakistan by visiting prohibited areas by the accused persons and taking photographs thereof, the leakage of which was prejudicial to the safety and interest of the country," had been proved.

Saddique was also held to be a Pakistani national by the court.

Mr Chawla observed that he came to India without valid travel documents with a clear object of collecting information regarding the defence installations at the various Indian Air Force airfields and radar stations.

"He had come under direct directions, control and supervision of the Pakistan intelligence officers" Mr Chawla held.

The court further observed that Saddique had also been given references in India to seek their active association for achieving the objective.

According to Mr Handa, Saddique on his visits to India brought imported suit lengths, "burkas", snuff, safron and perperment as gifts for his agents. He also paid them Indian currency which he brought with him.

Another interesting aspect of the case, according to Mr Handa, was that Saddique took his accomplices one by one to Pakistan via the secret Sri Ganganagar route and with the assistance of Fattu. They were taken to Pakistan for being imparted training by Pakistani intelligence.

The charge sheet in the case was filed on 17 August 1977 and they were committed to Session Court for trial on 16 February 1978. The case was transferred from

the court of Additional Session Judge, G S Dhaka, to that of Mr Chawla on orders of Delhi High Court on 27 February last year.

The trial began in camera on 27 February last year.

Mr Handa concluded the prosecution case in October and the statements of the accused were recorded by December.

Kashmir Student Expelled

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Jul 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] Srinagar, July 9 (PTI)--A huge quantity of anti-Indian literature issued by a pro-Pakistan London-based organisation, 'sizable number of sharp-edged weapons, a country-made pistol and ammunition have been recovered from the hostel room of an expelled student of the University of Kashmir, a police source said.

Among other things, six daggers, steel punches, a large number of cycle chains, twelve liquor bottles and obscene literature were found in the room.

The source said the room belongs to M Jalil, said to be connected with the pro-Pakistani "Mahazi Azad." Jalil was eluding arrest and a manhunt had been launched to apprehend him, he said.

Police have registered a case under the Arms Act.

An authoritative university source said Jalil was among 22 students recently expelled but most of them did not vacate their rooms. Their parents were asked to take away belongings of their wards by Tuesday.

The university authorities called the police and broke open the room after the deadline.

The seizure of the weapons and anti-Indian literature from one of the rooms had established that last month's violence on the campus involving 22 expelled students was the handiwork of 'subversive elements,' the source said.

CSO: 4220/7266

STAGE BEING SET FOR CONGRESS-U, JANATA MERGER

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Consultations have begun among the leaders of the Cong-U and the Janata Party for closer cooperation between them, and perhaps, eventual merger.

Leaders of the two parties have been holding informal consultations on most issues in the past few weeks with a view to attaining greater identity of views. It is claimed that this had helped them to evolve similar policies on all issues and helped avert direct fight in the last byelections.

The Cong-U leaders, who are leaving for Bangalore on Friday, said that closer cooperation with the Janata Party would be discussed at their Working Committee meeting on 12 July. In fact, this will be the major issue before the CWC-U, especially in the context of its plans for greater cooperation with all opposition parties.

Leaders belonging to both parties said that the exit of pro-Cong-I leaders like Mr Y B Chavan had speeded up the process. According to the assessment of the Janata leaders, there would not be any more major exodus from the Cong-U as all "self-seekers" had now found their home.

We share the same heritage and plight, said a prominent Janata leader. He said there was not a single issue on which the two sides had differed in the past few months.

When asked about the party's relations with the Janata Party, AICC-U general secretary Ambika Soni said that there was already a consensus on greater cooperation both inside the legislature and outside. If everything went well, this would be further strengthened, she hoped.

Pawar's Role

Maharashtra PCC-U chief Sharad Pawar, a close friend of president Chandra Shekhar and other Janata leaders, is learnt to have taken a leading role in bringing the two parties together. As Chief Minister of Maharashtra during the Janata rule at the Centre, he had established close rapport with the Janata leaders both at the Centre and in the State. He is believed to be hopeful of an eventual merger of the two in the near future.

Leaders of the two parties deny that Cong-U president Devaraj Urs is cool to the move. According to them, all informal consultations, including a dinner gathering of the leaders of the two parties at Mr Ramakrishna Hegde's residence in New Delhi on Wednesday, were done after taking Mr Urs and others into confidence.

Janata Party leader Surendra Mohan, who returned from Hyderabad on Thursday, said that all opposition parties there, had come to an understanding to avoid mutual contests in the forthcoming civic elections. If the experiment succeeds, this could be a pattern in all future elections.

One problem the two sides have to face is the prejudices among a few older leaders like Mr Morarji Desai and Mr Jagjivan Ram. This would not be a cause of worry as the urge for amity is more intense at all levels. According to a Youth Cong-U leader even Mr Subramaniam Swamy, who is believed to be not in the same wave length on all issues, is not against the cooperation with Cong-U.

CSO: 4220/7266

GANDHI SPEAKS ON ANNIVERSARY OF SANJAY'S DEATH

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Jun 81 pp 1,7

[Text] Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on Tuesday asked the people not to observe Sanjay Gandhi's death anniversary by mourning and shedding tears but instead by inculcating a spirit of self-reliance as exemplified by her late son.

Addressing a rally on the occasion of the first death anniversary of Sanjay Gandhi at the Shanti Vana, she told the people to think how much they were willing to sacrifice for the country and hold their heads high and maintain the dignity and prestige of the nation.

The Prime Minister warned the nation about 'forces' trying to weaken the fabric of the country's unity and making attempts to whip up divisive tendencies to weaken the Central and State Governments and thereby the nation. She also charged the Opposition with trying to undermine the peoples confidence in themselves.

Speaking about the communist party allegations that there was no democracy in the country, she asked which socialist country had democracy as India had and which of those countries had solved the food problem as India did.

Referring to the issue of prices, the Prime Minister said they had not been curbed to the desired extent but then they could not be tackled overnight. She alleged that the Janata regime had left the country's economy in shambles.

Mrs Gandhi charged that attempts were being made to organise a railway strike similar to that of 1974 and spoke of alleged attempts to engineer accidents. She called upon the youth to channelise their activities and energies for constructive purposes and not to understand revolution as synonymous with disruptive activities as some "misguided" people thought. For Sanjay, revolution meant bringing about a revolutionary change in society, she said.

Recalling her son's joining politics, she said in an emotion-choked voice: "He was not interested in coming to politics but did so after he was made a target of attack by opposition politicians." Despite being his mother, she could not protect him as she was in the Government, she said.

Earlier in the morning, she paid a floral tribute at the Sanjay samadhi along with members of her family, in the presence of hundreds of youth Cong-I workers and her Cabinet colleagues including Mr Zail Singh and Mr Narasimha Rao.

She also visited the NDMC INDOOR STADIUM AT Talkatora Gardens where a week-long blood donation camp has been organised by the Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Trust.

A commemorative stamp on Sanjay Gandhi was also issued by the Post and Telegraph Department along with a first day cover to mark the occasion.

At a function at the Nehru Hill pledges were taken to follow the youth leader's five point-programme.

The function organised by the All India Qaumi Ekta Committee was attended among others by Union Minister P. C. Sethi Lt Governor, S. L. Khurana, Deputy Ministers, Usman Arif and Malik Arjun, besides Mr Dharam Dass Shastri, Mr J. B. Dhote and Maulana Syed Asrarul Haque.

Reports said similar functions were held in various parts of the country.

In Rajasthan, Chief Minister Jagannath Pahadia, along with several other Cong-I leaders planted saplings at Jaipur. At a meeting attended by them it was decided that 50,000 active party members in the State would plant one sapling each by 19 November.

In Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister T. Anjiah, inaugurated mass tree plantation programme at Hyderabad.

In Haryana, Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh a fortnight programme to observe the anniversary began with prabhat pheries blood donation camps and a campaign against dowry.

In Kerala 100 youth Cong-I volunteers donated blood at the medical college at Trivandrum and 25 Volunteers at the government hospital in Cochin.

CSO: 4220/7095

GANDHI WRITES TO HEADS OF STATE ON ECONOMIC SUMMIT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Jun 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has written to several Heads of State and Government in preparation for the two-day summit of developed and developing countries to take place in Mexico in October this year.

Chairman of the Economic Administration Reforms Commission L. K. Jha and joint secretary in the External Affairs Ministry K. K. Bhargava left for Tokyo on Monday night with a letter from Mrs Gandhi to Japanese Premier Suzuki on the issue.

Mr Jha and Mr Bhargava will then go to Ottawa and New York. They are carrying another letter from Mrs Gandhi to Canadian Premier Pierre Trudeau.

Mrs Gandhi is learnt to have urged the developed nations to understand the position of the developing countries on the vital economic questions taken up during the North-South dialogue.

Mr Jha and Mr Bhargava's exercise in Tokyo and Ottawa would be to get the assessments, perceptions and approaches of Japan and Canada to the various global issues likely to be discussed at the summit with the objective of establishing closer rapport.

India has already begun consultations with a number of countries in preparation for the summit. These consultations are going on through diplomatic channels. The consultations will continue with the Venezuelan Foreign Minister when he comes in Delhi on 29 June. Venezuela has taken over chairmanship of the 'Group of 77' from India.

Among others, Mrs Gandhi has also addressed communications to the Austrian Chancellor and the Nigerian Head of State, UNI adds.

It is understood that the messages deal with problems facing the North-South dialogue and also see the views of Heads of Government on economic subjects that would be taken up at the two-day summit in October.

Mrs Gandhi has sought their views on major subjects like food, monetary issues, trade, protectionism, restructuring of international economic order, transfer of technology and exploitation of energy resources.

PAKISTANI WEEKLY INTERVIEWS FOREIGN MINISTER RAO

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Jun 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] Islamabad, June 23 (PTI) A "conducive climate" would have to be built before India and Pakistan could discuss Kashmir under the Simla Agreement. External Affairs Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao has been quoted as saying.

Kashmir was not discussed as an issue during his recent visit to Pakistan, said Mr Rao in an interview published this week in Lahore's weekly "Mashriq Magazine."

Instead of taking up specific issues, both sides had laid emphasis on building a conducive climate and considered it to be a right step towards solving problems, he said.

He and Pakistan Foreign Minister Agha Shahi had agreed that they would continue to meet to carry on the process of mutual consultations, Mr Rao said.

The present round had to some extent paved the way for normalisation of relations between the two countries under the Simla Agreement, he said in the interview taken in Lahore on 10 June.

Asked how much time would it take to build the proper climate to solve the Kashmir issue, Mr Rao said on both sides there was a desire to solve problems and they would make utmost efforts to reach some result.

It was a vital issue, a bilateral issue between the two countries and their peoples and not a problem between two individuals, the External Affairs Minister added.

Understanding

Mr Rao said they had talked about creating a general climate which would prove conducive to solution of all existing problems between India and Pakistan. In such a climate both countries would be able to understand each other's viewpoint better.

About statements made in India by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and others about acquisition of arms by Pakistan, Mashrique said Mr Rao took the stand that expression of such sentiments was not unnatural in the context of the not so good and pleasant relations between the two countries in the past.

But now efforts should be made to improve the situation. They had come to Pakistan only after an assessment of past development and with a sincere desire to improve matters, Mr Rao said.

"We have come here with the hope of striking a new path," he added.

Mr Rao disclosed that the question of persons missing since the 1971 war was discussed during the current round and the two sides had agreed to take certain steps in this regard. A team of International Red Cross will soon visit Pakistan in this connection.

External Affairs Minister also contradicted reports that India was opposing Pakistan's entry into the Commonwealth. The impression was absolutely wrong and India was not even aware that such a talk was going on.

CSO: 4220/7095

BIHAR MINISTER CLAIMS GANDHI POPULARITY RISING

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 23 Jun 81 p 4

[Text] New Delhi, June 22--Bihar's chief minister, Dr Jagannath Mishra, today claimed that his party's total success in the by-elections, including in constituencies the party had not won for over 15 years, underscored the rising personal popularity of the Prime Minister and her policies in the state.

Talking to the newsmen, he maintained that the caste factor about which much had been said had ceased to be a force in the elections. Nor was there any major violent incident, he claimed.

According to the chief minister, the programmes for distribution of land to the landless, assistance to small trades and social security measures initiated in the past one year found a ready response in the people.

Asked about dissidence in the ruling party, he said, of the 191 members in the party in the vidhan sabha, there might be nine or ten who could not agree with him. Now that the by-elections were over, the pradesh Congress(I) would take stern action against continued indiscipline by any party member.

Biharsharif Riots

To a query on making rail travel safe, the chief minister said that it was quite some time that his government had offered to raise three battalions the cost of which was to have been borne equally by Bihar and the railway administration. There was no response yet from the railways, he said.

On The Biharsharif riots and after, Dr Mishra asserted that prompt relief measures had been taken as a result of which most persons had returned home from refugee camps.

Apart from Rs 10,000 paid to the next of kin of every one of those who died in the rioting sums ranging Rs 10,000 to Rs 30,000 were being paid for building new homes. Also, speedy action was initiated in prosecuting those allegedly involved in rioting. Special courts had been set up, he added.

While punitive fines were imposed, there were appeals against the government action.

MINISTER URGES GOVERNMENT POST FOR RAJIV GANDHI

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 23 Jun 81 p 4

[Text] Bombay, June 22: The Maharashtra chief minister, Mr A. R. Antulay, today suggested that Mr Rajiv Gandhi, recently elected from Amethi, should be inducted into the Central ministry with a cabinet rank for the country's stability and for continuity of democracy and secularism.

Otherwise, he said, he should be made a party functionary in the capacity of an "executive chairman, vice-chairman or secretary-general" of the Congress(I).

Mr Antulay was inaugurating a pictorial panorama entitled "Son of India" at the Jehangir art gallery here today. The exhibition is divided in two separate sections--"Son of India" relating to the life and death of Sanjay Gandhi and "Victorious Once Again" about Mrs Gandhi's arrest, her comeback and meetings with international leaders. The two sections are displayed in two separate wings of the gallery.

Mr Antulay said the Nehru family from Motilal, Jawaharlal, Indira and Sanjay had stood for stability and continuity of democracy and secularism. If that tradition was to be continued and if the ideals, dreams and vision of Sanjay Gandhi were to be realised, then Mr Rajiv Gandhi, whom the youth of this country look upon for leadership, should be given the opportunity to translate them into a reality.

The railway minister, Mr Kedar Pande, said the exhibition should be shown in every state so that Sanjay's services to the people and the sacrifices he made in their behalf became widely known.

The Union deputy minister for information and broadcasting, Mrs Kumudben Joshi, said Sanjay was a man of action and sought to translate his programmes in concrete terms by exhorting the youth to take up development work.

The Union minister of state for defence, Mr Shivraj Patil, said the late Youth Congress leader crusaded for removing the evils that plagued Indian society like poverty, backwardness and dowry.

The "Son of India" section traces the life of Sanjay through photographs. A big blow-up of Sanjay as a babe with his mother dominates this section as one enters the gallery.

Excerpts from Sanjay's speeches and tributes paid by Indian and world leaders have been interspersed appropriately between photographs. Included in this panorama are colour pictures of Sanjay's wedding.

The second section, "Victorious Once Again," is wholly devoted to Mrs Indira Gandhi, commencing with her arrest, appearance at the Tis Hazari courts, her triumphant comeback and meetings with international leaders.

The exhibition will be open to the public from tomorrow--Sanjay Gandhi's first death anniversary.

CSO: 4220/7090

BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER SPEAKS AT INDO-SOVIET FETE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 23 Jun 81 p 3

[Text]

MR Jyoti Basu said in Calcutta on Monday that the Communists in India might occasionally differ with the policy of the Soviet Union on certain issues but that did not indicate a deviation from their basic outlook towards the new system that had been set up in that country.

The Chief Minister was speaking at a meeting to mark the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the Indo-Soviet friendship movement. He said that the Soviet Union would continue to be a source of inspiration to those in India who were out to change the present social system. "But our policy and programme will be our own and not a carbon copy of any particular system. Nor are we going to be dictated by some policy from outside", he added.

Mr Basu, who incidentally, was one of the founder-members of the Friends of the Soviet Union, recalled how the organization was set up in Calcutta on the day when fascist Germany had attacked the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941. That meeting was presided over by S Radhakrishnan to protest against the Nazi aggression. Some eminent personalities had joined the movement and Tagore had agreed to be its patron.

Mr Basu said there were well-meaning people who had opposed

the Nazi aggression but were not sure of the victory of the Soviet Union. But the Communists, he said, were confident that the Soviet people would be able to resist the German attack. He mentioned how the freedom movements in India and elsewhere were inspired by the Soviet revolution. It was the Soviet Union which had come forward before others to help India in building up a new India after independence. Professor Hiren Mukherjee presiding over the meeting said friendship between the two countries had withstood the test of time.

Mr Y. Sepelev, Consul-General of the USSR in Calcutta, said that the sincere desire of the Indian and Soviet people to know each other better was not confined to State-regulated cultural agreements, however extensive they might be. He said, the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society, which had been set up in 1962 as a successor to the Friends of the Soviet Union, had made useful contribution to the strengthening of the cultural ties between the two countries. Mr S. K. Acharya, Advocate-General, West Bengal and Mr Chinmohan Shehanabhis, founder-members of the Society narrated how the Indo-Soviet friendship movement helped to grow different types of democratic movements in the country.

CSO: 4220/7092

INDO-SOVIET CULTURAL SOCIETY MEETS IN DELHI

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Jun 81 p 10

[Text]

THE friendship between India and the Soviet Union needs to be preserved and strengthened for the sake of world peace and to fight the forces of imperialism. This was the common refrain of speeches at a meeting held in New Delhi on Monday.

The meeting was organised by the Delhi unit of the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the heroic fight of the Soviet people against fascism. Speakers belonging to different political parties warned of the gathering war clouds and the attempts to break Indo-Soviet friendship. They expressed the confidence that no power would be able to destroy the friendship which was not merely on a political or government level but mainly between the people of the two countries.

General secretary of the CPI C Rajeswara Rao said that the defeat of fascist forces by the Soviet Union changed the course of the world. The Soviet Union had sacrificed over two crore men, many of them young, in its war against fascism.

He asked the people of India not to forget the defeat of the fascist forces at Stalingrad. Had they won, India would have become a slave of the fascists.

He expressed confidence that the Imperialists would fail in their attempt to destroy the Soviet Union and get destroyed themselves instead. He warned the people to be cautious of a subtle propaganda against Indo-Soviet friendship being carried on by the big business controlled press.

Soviet Ambassador Y M Vorontsov said that the war, whose 40th anniversary they were observing, had left a scar in every Soviet family and 40 per

cent of the people killed in the Second World War were Soviet people.

INDIA'S SUPPORT

He said that the Soviet people remembered very much the way in which the Indian people stood by them during the war, even though the Indians were fighting a war of independence. From that moment the bond of friendship had strengthened between the two countries and nursed by organisations like the ISCUS.

The Soviet Ambassador said that the Soviet people also could not forget the role played by the Communist Party of India then in bringing about solidarity and strengthening friendship.

Mr Vorontsov said that Indo-Soviet ties had played a role in scattering the war clouds gathering over the Asian continent and the world, and this was symbolised in the Indo-Soviet Friendship Treaty.

Janwadi (Democratic) Party president Chandrajit Yadav said that Indo-Soviet friendship was a bastion of the forces of world peace, and their friendship assumed importance now with the gathering of war clouds and the joining up of imperialist forces.

Chaudhary Brahm Perkash and Congress-U leader Mrs Ambika Soni pleaded that Indo-Soviet relations be kept above politics.

A message of greetings from the public meeting to the Soviet people was read out by Dr Namvar Singh who presided over the function. Mrs Lito Ghosh read out a message from the Soviet Union.

Earlier, Dr Namvar Singh also released a book titled "FSU to ISCUS—40 years of Indo-Soviet Friendship" by Prof Hiren Mukherjee, and presented the first copy of the book to the Soviet Ambassador.

SIKKIM COMMITTEE'S CUTOFF DATE PROPOSAL CAUSES CONCERN

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Jul 81 pp 1, 7

[Text]

The Centre is seriously concerned over the possible fall-out of the recommendations of the Sikkim Government committee for fixing 1970 as the cut-off year for granting citizenship to "non-nationals".

A copy of the committee report received in New Delhi few days ago has been referred to senior Home Ministry officials for studying its possible ramifications in neighbouring States.

The committee, comprising Sikkimese Ministers and members of the legislature, was headed by the Assembly Speaker, who submitted its final report to Chief Minister N B Bhandari this week. The committee was set up after a prolonged controversy over granting of voting rights to non-Sikkimese, most of whom are Nepalese settled in parts of the State bordering Nepal for the last several generations or moved into the hills there after serving in India.

The controversy has worried the Centre for long but it has not been able to evolve a concrete clear-cut policy so far on the Nepalese issue. Some Nepalese organisations have all along been complaining that the Nepalese are treated as second class citizens and outsiders in Sikkim, even though they have been living there for several generations and own lands and property there. There have been in the past many instances of violent clashes between the Nepalese and the local people.

The Nepalese Government has occasionally complained to the Indian Government against alleged maltreatment of the people of Nepalese origin in Sikkim.

The Centre is worried that if the Sikkim Government committee's report is accepted in the legislature and implemented by the State, conflict between the

Sikkimese and the people of Nepalese origin will aggravate and spread tensions in neighbouring States as well.

The Centre feels that the nationality question in Sikkim radically differs from the one in Assam. Sikkim became a part of the Indian Union in 1975 and with that Indian citizenship laws became operative in the State.

The committee report, however effectively fixes April, 1970, as the cut-off year for grant of citizenship. It recommends that Indian citizenship be conferred

only on those who were ordinarily residents of the State five years before the Indian Constitution was enforced in the State on 26 April 1975.

This leaves as stateless all those who came to Sikkim between 1970 and 1975. This situation, it is felt, is untenable. Even otherwise, it is pointed out that residents with more than five years' stay can be granted citizenship under existing laws whereas people have now been living in Sikkim for up to 10 years.

NATION ENCOURAGED TO JOIN INTER-AMERICAN BANK

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Jul 81 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 1

A 12-member team of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) which recently visited five Latin American countries to explore the possibilities of stepping up trade and industrial cooperation has urged the Government to join the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) which functions as a regional bank for Latin America according to Mr. A. N. Modi, who led the team.

IDB has emerged as a major financier of projects in this region and only firms from member-countries of the bank are eligible for award of contracts for supply of materials and equipment, and for execution of projects. If the Government of India joins the bank, Indian firms can bid and secure a large number of contracts, says Mr. Modi in the team's report released at a press conference here on Tuesday.

Mr. Modi said in one case the Indian firm faced difficulty in getting the contract though its bid was competitive simply because India was not a member of the bank.

Joint commissions

Another suggestion made in the report was that the Government should set up joint commissions with Latin American countries to supplement efforts through joint business councils set up by FCCI.

The Government was also urged to set up an apex mission for Latin America on the lines of the mission set up for EEC at Brussels. Such a mission would help to establish a closer liaison with the Latin American Economic Integration Association and strengthen commercial ties apart from coordinating the commercial and economic activities of the Indian Embassies in the region.

Shipping service

Irregular and inadequate shipping service was found by the team to be a major handicap in promoting exports to Latin America. It was felt that India should enter into joint shipping companies. To begin with promotional shipping service should be started by the Shipping Corporation of India on its own with Government subsidy. The establishment of warehousing facilities at key centres, barter deal arrangements in commodities, creation of a special fund to finance project exports to this region and strengthening of commercial sections in the Indian Embassies were some of the other recommendations made by the team.

Mr. Modi told newsmen that Latin America provided a vast market for Indian goods and services. He felt that Indian exports could be increased ten-fold from the present level of Rs. 23 crores to over Rs. 250 crores annually in the next four or five years.

The five countries visited by the team — Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Argentina and Mexico — alone could absorb about Rs. 150 crores worth of Indian goods and services a year, as against the present exports of Rs. 12 crores. The region offered promising scope for consultancy services and establishment of joint ventures including some with buy-back arrangements, he said.

The barriers of distance, which had kept bilateral economic relations at a low level, no longer held good if countries like Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore with similar situation could successfully penetrate the markets in a big way. Why could not India with comparative cost advantage in many manufactured and semi-manufactured products? he asked.

Tie-up prospects

In Venezuela and Colombia the delegation found prospects for Indian tie-ups in modernisation and management of their textile, sugar and cement industries as also development of water supply and power generation projects.

In Argentina prospects existed for tie-ups in construction, consultancy, transport, communication and hydro-electric projects besides establishment of rice milling plants, pharmaceutical products and agro-based industries. In Brazil India could participate in the establishment of units for jute products and textiles, besides having tie-ups in civil construction works, construction of pipelines and setting up of rice milling plants.

In both Argentina and Brazil production cooperation could be visualised for cultivation of pulses, oilseeds and other commodities on a buy-back basis. These countries had vast empty land which could be put to use with Indian cooperation by supply of seeds, know-how and manpower.

Mexico had evinced interest for joint ventures in power sector, improvement of its railways, establishment of pharmaceutical, sugar and cement industries.

The report also said Brazilian technology to manufacture alcohol from agricultural and forest products as substitutes for scarce petroleum and its technology for producing pulp and paper from bagasse and other raw materials were of considerable relevance to India. So was Mexican cooperation in areas such as swamp water drilling, oil exploration, manufacture of petrochemical products, sponge iron and newsprint for bagasse.

India and some Latin American countries particularly Brazil, Argentina and Mexico could also undertake joint projects in third countries, not only in South America but elsewhere also, the report said.

TARAPUR TALKS CALLED TEST OF POLITICAL WILL

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Jul 81 p 7

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, July 1--The Chief U.S. Negotiator on Nuclear Affairs, Mr James L. Malon, will be visiting Delhi in the next two or three weeks for what might turn out to be the final round of talks for the termination of the Tarapur agreement.

The U.S. continues to draw a legal distinction between a unilateral break of the agreement and an abrogation of the arrangement through mutual consent to sustain its contention that India must abide by the existing safeguards even after the termination.

Indian stand: The Indian stand on the other hand has been that the moment the U.S. goes back on its contractual obligation the safeguards that form an integral part of the terminated agreement would automatically lapse with no binding obligation left on its part to submit the power reactors, materials and other installations at Tarapur to any further international inspection.

It has been stated quite explicitly by India that if the U.S. breaks the agreement, it will have no right to insist on the continuance of the safeguards in any form. The Indian title to the spent fuel at Tarapur is unquestionable that even the provision for joint determination of the safeguardability of the reprocessing plant would become inoperative.

But Mr Malon is expected to argue during the forthcoming talks as he did during the last round in Washington that the very process of the contemplated abrogation of the old agreement by consent would involve the conclusion of a new agreement implying certain obligations on both sides to ensure orderly termination. Under this terminal arrangement he is going to press for the retention of the existing safeguards as part of an international obligation rather than a bilateral commitment.

Canadian precedent: It remains to be seen whether the U.S. will try to exert political pressure if the attempt to stretch the legal argument fails to achieve the desired purpose. The U.S. is relying to some extent on the Canadian precedent to press India to retain the Tarapur safeguards as it did in the case of the Rajasthan plant after Canada suspended its nuclear cooperation.

Though it has ignored the Indian protests and decided to go ahead with its policy of rearming Pakistan the Reagan Administration is anxious to placate India to some extent if only to ensure that the country does not become too dependent on the Soviet Union.

During the recent stopover in New York of the External Affairs Minister, Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao, the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr Alexander Haig, telephoned him from Washington to assure him that he was hoping to pay an early visit to India to attend the much-postponed ministerial meeting of the Indo-American Joint Commission.

It is considered quite possible that as sort of ploy the U.S. might offer to send the two pending shipments of enriched uranium if as part of the process of the termination of the fuel supply agreement India agrees to continue to submit Tarapur to international inspection.

The observation of the U.S. Undersecretary of State, Mr James Buckley, that the only item of the agenda for the forthcoming Indo-American nuclear talks was the termination of the Tarapur agreement has not been borne out by diplomatic reports from Washington. The U.S. is clearly bent on waging a psychological warfare on India to extract the maximum concessions and it is going to be a test of both political will and legal acumen on both sides.

CSO: 5100/7123

GOVERNMENT CONCERNED OVER RIOTS IN BRITAIN

Madras THE HINDU in English 6 Jul 81 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, July 5--The Government is quite concerned that Indo-British relations, never at their best despite the close associations that continue to exist between the two countries, are coming under increasing strain in the wake of recurring racial incidents in Britain, where nearly two million people of sub-continental origin are faced with growing prejudice and discrimination.

Though nobody in Delhi is accusing the British Government of encouraging racialism, the marked reluctance of the Home Office to deal firmly with the white racist groups in Britain inciting violence against coloured immigrants has been causing considerable resentment here.

Sad Feature

The Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, who felt strongly about this sad feature of Indo-British relations, was obliged to speak out bluntly on the subject during Mrs Margaret Thatcher's recent visit. She made some critical observations about the racial implications of the new British Nationality Act much to Mrs Thatcher's discomfiture.

The Government has been considering various remedies, like the introduction of visa system and stricter enforcement of emigration procedures, to discourage the flow of Indian immigrants into Britain. But the more immediate problem is how to ensure that people of Indian origin who are already domiciled in Britain are treated well and not subject to racial discrimination.

The latest racial incidents in Southall and Liverpool, on the eve of the President's visit to Britain to attend the royal wedding, are causing concern in Government circles, since the bitterness generated by such violence could sour the goodwill aspects of the visit. The local Indian community which is planning to hold a reception in his honour is bound to utilise the occasion to focus attention on the question of worsening race relations in Britain.

What is most unfortunate is that the race problem has been casting an ugly shadow over the growing bilateral relationship between India and Britain. The United Kingdom has emerged as India's number one donor of foreign aid despite its own economic difficulties and Indo-British trade has been increasing rapidly in many spheres.

There is no dearth of men and women of goodwill in both India and Britain who want to see the recurring racial irritations eliminated. They feel deeply distressed when harsh things are said in moments of anger about either Indian culpability in the creation of this problem by unwittingly allowing the flow of immigrants over the years on such a large scale or of British hypocrisy in pretending that there is no racial discrimination at all in the United Kingdom other than the narrow prejudice displayed by an infinitesimal section of its population.

But the two Governments have not so far seriously applied their minds together on evolving proper procedures for those already settled in Britain to live with honour and dignity, while taking steps to check further inflow of immigrants into the United Kingdom. The subject was discussed during Mrs Thatcher's visit in the sense that anxieties were expressed and assurances given for what they were worth, to clear the way for discussing more important issues.

The Commonwealth link binding the two countries has been strained from time to time by the British attitude to racial problems elsewhere. But now the time has come for the two countries to take suitable steps to ensure that the racial situation in Britain itself does not become a big barrier to mutually beneficial bilateral relations.

Full Report Awaited

The External Affairs Ministry is awaiting a full report from the Indian High Commission in London whether the latest clashes were isolated incidents or represented an unmistakable pattern of worsening race relations. The Government also wants to know whether the British police have acted impartially or tended to take a prejudiced view until the rampaging whites got out of control and resorted to an orgy of violence.

It will be decided only after the receipt of these reports whether the matter should be officially taken up with the British Government or allowed to be dealt with at the local level by the Indian High Commission. But whatever the immediate causes of these incidents, India is worried about the consequences of this recurring racial violence in Britain.

CSO: 4220/7198

INDIA EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER RIOTS IN ENGLAND

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Jul 81 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI July 8

India today voiced its serious concern both in Delhi and London over the worsening racial situation in Britain with the five-day old riots spreading to several new centres.

In the absence of the British High Commissioner Sir John Thomson away on tour the acting High Commissioner Mr C. A. K. Culimore was called to the External Affairs Ministry by the Joint Secretary in charge of West Europe Mr H. D. Bhalla and told of India's concern and anxiety at the unabated racial violence against people of Indian origin in Britain.

Simultaneously the Indian High Commissioner in London Dr Seyid Mohammad called on the Minister of State at the British Home Office Mr Douglas Hurd to express similar concern and press for stern action to check the activities of the Skinheads and other racist gangs on the rampage. He has also sought an appointment with the Home Secretary Mr Whitelaw to carry this plea for firmness to the highest quarters in the British Government.

Attack on mission staff: The Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi might herself write to Mrs Thatcher if there is no sign of the racial violence abating in the next few days. The Government of India has taken a serious view of the attacks on the staff of the Indian High Commission in Central London where the culprits have not yet been apprehended by the police.

The Indian High Commission has sent a detailed assessment of the origins of the latest racial violence in Britain, the political groups which were inciting this violence and the behaviour of the British police in dealing with it.

The Government has been adopting a restrained attitude in voicing its concern since it does not want to exacerbate feelings further by accusing the British Government of lassitude in coping with this racial violence.

The inordinately long time the Government has taken in making even this mild verbal protest has come in for criticism. Several political parties and public institutions have been calling for a stronger Indian condemnation.

Press reports from London giving details of how the Skinheads have been attacking non-whites with impunity, with the British police doing precious little to curb them, have infuriated people in the northern Indian States from where the bulk of the Indians have emigrated to Britain.

The police in Delhi have taken precautionary steps to prevent any demonstrations in front of the British High Commission here.

The Skinheads who rampaged through Southall last weekend have threatened to strike again this Saturday. The Government of India is waiting to see what steps the London police will take to thwart their attempts to indulge in a fresh orgy of violence.

Not sporadic? Meanwhile the reports that the rioting had spread from Southall to Wood Green in North London, and from Liverpool to Manchester are causing further anxiety leading to the fear that these are not sporadic incidents. It cannot be ruled out that the fascist groups inciting this racial violence might have exploited the present inflamed passions to create more trouble and compel some of the panic-stricken Asians to seriously think of quitting Britain.

DELEGATE SPEAKS AT DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Jul 81 p 3

[Text] India has called for reconciliation of divergent security concerns through a sincere dialogue for achieving the goal of general and complete disarmament, reports PTI.

The fundamental aspect of conducting an earnest dialogue with a view to accommodate rather than merely reject each others viewpoints had yet to materialise in full measure India's representative to the UN at Geneva, Mr A. P. Venkateswaran told the Disarmament Committee there.

Mr Venkateswaran was addressing the committee after India took over as its chairman after a period of over six years.

In the context of the present international situation characterised by a spirit of confrontation and tension, it was all the more necessary for the committee as a collective body to promote a dialogue and lay the basis for better mutual understanding, Mr Venkateswaran said.

Collective security, he said, would no longer be the elusive goal that it had proved to be all these years once a proper and undistorted perspective was established.

The Indian chairman emphasised that pursuit of individual security concerns should not lead to a situation in which the collective survival of mankind was endangered.

Nations should resist the temptation to exaggerate their own narrow security perceptions while all too easily dismissing similar concerns of others as inconsequential or as not worthy of serious attention.

The desire of security, after all, he said, stemmed from fear, mistrust and a mood of pessimism "We crave for security mainly because we apprehend danger. And nothing serves to sharpen such apprehensions more than ignorance lack of understanding, prejudice and preconceptions," he said adding that while everyone professed peaceful intentions they often tended to mirror each others fears and apprehensions. Such reflections, with its exaggerated and distorted image, could be overcome only through a process of dialogue and an attempt to understand what lay behind the fears and suspicions.

Calling for translating their commitment to the goal of collective security into practical decisions, Mr Venkateswaran stressed the need for concrete evidence to underline the continuing relevance and importance of the committee for realising the cherished goal of disarmament. He hoped that present efforts would enable them to present to the second special session of the UN on disarmament next year, proposals worthy of the committee.

While they must remain conscious of national and security interests of the countries they represented, "we must not forget that the UN family is a much larger one." He reminded them that they were living in an increasingly interdependent world where the pursuit of ones national interests had to be consciously tempered and moderated by the awareness of the impact of their actions or lack of them on the collective well being and security of the international community as a whole.

CSO: 4220/7199

PAPERS REPORT BAHUGUNA LUCKNOW PRESS CONFERENCE

'PATRIOT' Report

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Jul 81 pp 1, 7

[Text]

LUCKNOW, July 5 (PTI) — Democratic Socialist Front chairman H N Bahuguna today urged the opposition parties to come closer to meet the challenges posed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to the country's political system.

Talking to newsmen here Mr Bahuguna referred to the Election Commission's decision to have a repoll in the Garhwal Lok Sabha constituency and said the opposition parties had started thinking of evolving a system by which they could function together.

Something concrete in this respect might come out by the end of the current month, Mr Bahuguna added.

Mr Bahuguna said he was not allergic to any political leader.

He also did not want to lead any opposition front all he wanted to be was a catalyst.

Mr Bahuguna dwelt at length on 'rigging' by the ruling party in the Garhwal by-elections saying that could recount innumerable

instances of intimidation and harassment of voters, polling personnel and officials whom the ruling party thought were against it.

On the other hand, the charges that he had used criminals in the by-election were baseless, he said.

If the ruling party leaders could give the name of any single criminal employed by him, he would retire from politics, Mr Bahuguna added.

Mr Bahuguna said the election process in Garhwal was still on and the Uttar Pradesh government had no right to transfer any officer connected with election duty till repoll in the constituency was completed.

He also described as a corrupt practice the supply of power for 24 hours in the districts where by-elections were held last month and the imposition of power cut in other districts.

CHALLENGE TO PM

UNI adds: Mr Bahuguna claimed that if Prime Minister Indira Gandhi tried to amend the Constitution to bring in a presidential

form of Government, he would see to it that at least 90 to 100 Cong-I members of Parliament voted against the change.

Bahuguna out is no less dangerous than Bahuguna in, he remarked.

Mr Bahuguna said the issues which had cropped up in the Garhwal byelection were not isolated importance but had wider ramifications.

"It was to take about these issues that I had been touring places from Srinagar to Calcutta he said, claiming the opposition in the country may not have reacted in a big way publicly to what happened in Garhwal, but the leaders are definitely realising the seriousness of the issues involved."

Asked to comment Mr Raj Narain's statement that he (Mr Bahuguna) should not make the Garhwal byelection a personal issue, the Democratic Socialist Front leader said, "I agree with him. What he has said is obvious."

However, he hastened to add, "at the same time, the Garhwal issue cannot be kept confined to me and Mr Raj Narain."

According to him the Prime Minister did not know anything about what actually happened in Garhwal.

"Mrs Gandhi's misfortune is that her instrument (Chief Minister) only knew the ways of feudalism and goondaism to get things done and naturally he adopted the same ways to see me defeated," Mr Bahuguna added.

Mr Bahuguna alleged that CIA money and institutions were used against him in the Garhwal constituency.

Mr Bahuguna, however, refused to elaborate his charge.

Calcutta: West Bengal Pradesh Congress-I president Ajit Panja said today that the recent visit of Mr Bahuguna to the city in connection with the recent byelection was 'nothing but a political stunt.'

He said, 'It is surprising that Mr Bahuguna has sought the help of the CPI-M for the alleged protection of democracy.'

'TIMES OF INDIA' Report

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Jul 81 p 9

[Text] Lucknow, July 5 (UNI)--The Democratic Socialist Front chief, Mr H. N. Bahuguna, today warned the Uttar Pradesh chief minister against "victimising" government servants in the Garhwal Lok Sabha constituency by transferring them.

"The election process is still on and if the state government victimises its employees through transfers, it will be guilty of illegality," Mr Bahuguna said at a news conference here.

Mr Bahuguna claimed that as many as 1,700 government employees were transferred from the Garhwal Lok Sabha constituency during a period of 13 months between his resigning the Lok Sabha seat and the announcement of the by-election. The government was planning wholesale transfers even in the post-by-election period, he alleged.

Mr Bahuguna said over 2,000 telegrams and letters were with the election commission through which he and his party men had brought to light the various "irregularities" being committed by the ruling party.

He said he had even informed the election commission that the district magistrate and superintendent of police of Dehra Dun and the district magistrate of Pauri were transferred after the notification on the by-election was issued.

According to him, the Prime Minister did not know anything about what actually happened in Garhwal. "Mrs Gandhi's misfortune is that her instrument (chief minister) only knew the ways of equalism and goondaism to get things done and naturally he adopted the same ways to see me defeated," Mr Bahuguna added.

Mr Bahuguna said Mrs Gandhi did not even know that the man who was caught taking away ballot box from the Pritam Road polling station in Dehra Dun was Mr Brij Bhushan Joshi, president of the block Congress(I) committee.

He reiterated his offer to quit politics in case a single charge levelled by the Congress(I) leaders was proved in a judicial inquiry conducted by a judge of the supreme court.

Mr Bahuguna said even now his workers in the Garhwal constituency were being assaulted and intimidated.

In this connection, he read out two telegrams sent from Shrinagar (Garhwal) on July 1 and 2 informing the state party headquarters that one M. S. Pawar was seriously injured when fired at and one Rajesh Namboori was assaulted.

Mr Bahuguna further said that if Mrs Gandhi tried to amend the constitution to bring in a presidential form of government, he would see to it that at least 80 to 100 Congress(I) members of parliament voted against the change.

"Bahuguna out is no less dangerous than Bahuguna in," he said.

Mr Bahuguna said the issues which had cropped up in the by-election were not of isolated importance but had wide ramifications. "It was to talk about these issues that I had been touring places from Srinagar to Calcutta," he said, claiming. "The opposition in the country may not have reacted in a big way publicly to what happened in Garhwal, but the leaders are definitely realising the seriousness of the issues involved."

Mr Bahuguna said that after the June 20 verdict of the election commission, the opposition had come to "some life."

Mr Bahuguna said he was trying for a broad democratic front in the country. The result of his efforts would by and large become known by the third week of this month, he added.

Replying to a question, Mr Bahuguna said he was not allergic to any individual leader or party, but was certainly allergic to certain policies.

Asked to comment on Mr Raj Narain's statement that he (Mr Bahuguna) should not make the Garhwal by-election a personal issue, he said, "I agree with him. What he has said is obvious."

He hastened to add, "At the same time, the Garhwal issue cannot be kept confined to me and Mr Raj Narain."

Asked about the purpose of his meeting with Sheikh Abdullah, Mr Bahuguna replied, "The Sheikh is a veteran leader of the freedom movement. I had gone to remind him that he had some responsibility towards the country to discharge."

BAHUGUNA HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE ON REPOLL ORDER

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Jun 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi June 21--While Mr H. N. Bahuguna, Democratic Socialist Front (DSF) leader and candidate from a Garhwal Lok Sabha constituency, called for a national campaign in defence of parliamentary democracy, Mr V. P. Singh, chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, said it would be necessary to know the precise powers of the election commission and the state government in the context of the commission's orders on a repoll.

Addressing a crowded press conference, Mr Bahuguna stated that the campaign was necessary in view of his observation that the ruling party had decided to embark on a confrontation even with the election commission. He referred to government's "confrontation" with the judiciary and the press and its efforts to muzzle Parliament and was disturbed that it was now choosing to question the commission's right to superintend, direct and control the elections.

In his view, a free and fair poll could be ensured only if the polling booths were manned entirely by the election commission staff. Temporary staff, appointed in the conduct of the census operations, could be utilised for this purpose. The government should finance the election which in future should be controlled by the commission, he said.

Mr Bahuguna accused the Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, of exercising "undue pressure" on the electorate by threatening in public meetings that unless they voted for her, there would be no development.

He warned that if the ruling party was allowed to have its way with the election commission, the country would have either a "rigged parliament" or a "dynastic rule."

A former chief minister of U.P. Mr Bahuguna said "I hang my head in shame that the state government could not manage even five by-elections without the help of police from the neighbouring states." He alleged that when the ruling party's attempts to win votes on caste lines and by threats and allurements failed, "commando raids" by the police from outside U.P. were launched.

"First To Complain"

He stated that though the returning officer, who is the district magistrate of Pauri-Garhwal, had not made any request to police from Punjab and Haryana being

posted during the election, they had been deployed nevertheless. This fact had been noted by the commission.

Mr Bahuguna alleged that the Haryana police had thrice lathi-charged voters and opened fire twice in Pauri alone and that they had molested women at the polling booths. In several booths like Nowakhal and Chamara, the number of votes was more than the number of voters.

While his complaints had been lodged with presiding officers and others connected with the poll on June 13 and 14, Congress(I) leaders had registered the complaint in respect of the Badri-Kedar assembly segment on June 17. "If I had not complained, counting would have started as scheduled before the Congress(I) had lodged its complaint," he pointed out. This was, therefore, in his view, an "after-thought" on the part of the ruling party to frustrate the verdict of the people. He would have preferred selective repoll as the people of this constituency had been denied representation in Parliament for a long time.

The chief minister, addressing a separate press conference, maintained that while the conduct of the elections was the responsibility of the commission, maintenance of the law and order problem was the responsibility of the state government.

According to Mr Singh, the commission's order did not amount to passing a stricture since it did not arrive at the conclusion that the outside police force had anything to do with booth-capturing or any other irregularity.

CSD: 4220/7085

UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF REJECTS BAHUGUNA CHARGES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Jul 81 p 7

[Text] Lucknow, July 6. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister V. P. Singh today rejected the offer of DSF leader H. N. Bahuguna for a judicial inquiry into the allegations of violence both against Cong-I and DSF, and asserted that Mr Bahuguna had taken resort to lies to confuse the people and issues.

The Chief Minister, reacting quickly to Mr Bahuguna's assertions about large-scale violence and goondaism by Cong-I workers in cooperation with Haryana Armed Police during the election campaign said Mr Bahuguna's allegation that the DMs of Pauri and Dehra Dun were transferred after the election notification were totally false. He said the two officers were transferred in last April.

Regarding the challenge by Mr Bahuguna to UP Government to prove that he had imported goondas for the election campaigning Mr Singh said he would make inquiries.

When asked about Mr Bahuguna's complaint that he has sent a list of over 100 men with criminal records to the election commission who were working as Cong-I canvassers, the Chief Minister said: "The list was sent to the Commission, not to me." He refused to reply to a question whether Mr Bahuguna's assertion was wrong.

Criticising the Prime Minister for making baseless allegations of violence against DSF, Mr Bahuguna, had challenged her to prove the charges against DSF before a judicial inquiry headed by a Supreme Court judge. He said on his part he was prepared to prove his allegations.

Mr Bahuguna said he could produce many women whose limbs were broken in attacks by Cong-I canvassers and the Haryana Police, which had indulged in wanton firings.

Mr Bahuguna asserted that the total number of his election workers from outside Garhwal was only about 300 and all of them were known political figures.

Asserting that the Cong-I had spent not less than rupees two crores on this election, Mr Bahuguna said money was being distributed in the constituency by many people. One of them was the brother of Balyogeshwar, who was now settled in USA. Asked if he suspected that the money had come from US he said the link was obvious.

INDO-BURMESE COOPERATION ON NAGAS 'OVERDUE'

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Jul 81 p 3

[Article by Murkot Ramunnav: "A New Approach to the Naga Problem"]

[Text]

WHEN the new Chief of Army Staff Gen. Krishna Rao said that India and Burma would jointly flush out the Naga undergrounds operating near the international border inside Burma, he was saying something that has been long overdue. So far it has been failure of diplomacy and lack of far-sightedness on Burma's part.

The last 20 years have been a saga of want of cooperation or coordination in operations which would have helped both countries and saved innumerable lives and brought peace to this area paving the way for faster economic development.

Burma has its own problems and the areas across Nagaland and Manipur are lightly administered. Whenever the Burmese army made its appearance it had made its presence felt. Underground Nagas and others apprehended in Burma have been handed over to Indian authorities in the past but at no time has any joint operation, now hinted at by our Chief of Army Staff, been carried out. It is precisely this coordination, cooperation and exchange of intelligence that was wanted and is needed.

Gen. Krishna Rao knows what he is talking about. He was GOC of a mountain division for about three years in that area and was one of the most successful Generals who have served in the North East.

Ever since Naga insurgency flared up in 1954-55 both East Pakistan and Burma have been haven for those guerrillas seeking refuge. East Pakistan trained and equipped them before sending them back.

The first underground Commander-in-Chief, Thungdohing, was apprehended by an efficient section of policemen while returning through Assam with arms received in East Pakistan.

For the security forces who were then thin on the ground, inhospitable thick jungles on the border, lack of roads and paths and a hospitable East Pakistan came in the way of their intercepting the underground. But as years passed by, the security forces were able more or less to seal the escape routes to East Pakistan. The underground then took a new hazardous long route via Burma to East Pakistan.

In 1961 when an IAF plane was shot down by the underground and the crew taken prisoner it was to Burma they were taken by forced marches through thinly populated border areas of Nagaland. To Prime Minister Nehru international boundaries were sacrosanct. Joint operations with Burma were not possible. But a year or so later Burma was able to get our air crew released and returned to India.

Self-styled Gen. Zuhato of the underground army successfully led a gang of about 1,000 underground through Burma to East Pakistan. They returned after training and obtaining arms, infiltrating in small numbers. Many more small groups took the new, difficult and longer route. Many fell by the way and quite a number was apprehended by our security forces.

Unlike East Pakistan, Burma did not assist or encourage them but the thinness of the Burmese Army made apprehending the quick-moving Nagas difficult. Only after the emergence of Bangladesh was the source of help from that country curtailed. Three of the top underground leaders surrendered at Disco.

But by 1966 the Naga underground had turned towards China for help. Though the underground were Baptist Christians and anti-communist, Phizo had, as early as 1962, announced that he would go to

any country even China for help. There were reports that Chinese leaders had met the underground in East Pakistan training camps earlier.

To reach China it meant a five-month trek across north Burma. Many a gang achieved this in spite of an extremely difficult terrain and rivers. However, they met very little opposition from the Burmese forces. The largest gang under the most renowned underground leader General Mao was apprehended on its return inside our border. All the while there was no coordinated action by the armies of Burma and China.

The last of the gangs trying to escape to China through Burma was clearly trapped by our Army in 1974. The remnants of the underground were beaten on the ground by the security forces, and the new political developments forced the underground

leadership to the conference table and the Shillong Agreement was signed in November 1975. With this the two decade old insurgency ended in Nagaland.

But the story takes us back to Burma again. When the Shillong Agreement was being signed, about 150 underground Nagas were on their way back from China after training and obtaining considerable modern arms. They camped in the border villages but found it difficult to infiltrate into Nagaland.

The atmosphere was completely changed. The villagers were not prepared to lose their new-found peace. The gang was led by Issac Swu and Muivah. Both, particularly the latter, were ideologically confirmed pro-Chinese communists. They were attempting to juggle with their own Christian religion and pretending to preserve it while accepting their newly acquired socialist ideology.

All attempts by the Church, relatives, friends and former underground leaders to persuade them to accept the Shillong agreement failed. They moved from village to village in Burma. The security forces' vigilance, the village guards' alertness besides, the Nagas' reluctance to destroy the peaceful atmosphere, made infiltration into Nagaland impossible. There were also differences among them. Many a leader was eliminated.

The split. The pro-Phizo and anti-Phizo gang alternately gained predominance. The Issac-Muivah group formed the National Socialist Council and appear to have maintained the leadership. The Burmese and Naga villagers refused to continue to maintain the gangs and after many clashes and murders and looting, nearly 1,000 refugees fled inside Nagaland.

The underground gang had on April 10 stormed the biggest police complex in Burma and escaped with large quantities of arms and burnt down the police station. When the Burmese security forces mounted an operation, the gang moved north to Makori village in northern Burma. Reports indicate that 'Captain' Katsit of the Issac-Muivah group led the attack on the Army column at Fakimilie in Tuensang district.

The underground gang from Burma has been attacking villages inside Nagaland and even attacking villages inside Nagaland and even outposts. Inside Burma the villagers have not known peace for the last five years since the combined gangs of Nagas from India and Burma have been moving about. To end all this the only way is what has been stated by our Army Chief, coordinated combined operations.

ESG: 4220/7202

PROBLEMS CAUSED BY AFGHAN REFUGEES IN DELHI TOLD

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 20 Jun 81 p 7

[Article by Rattan Mall: "Delhi Rents Pushed Up by Afghan DPs"]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, June 17.

SOME 3,000 Afghans, comprising a thousand families, along with a sprinkling of Iranian and Iraqi students, are concentrated in the relatively well-off South Delhi colonies. They have pushed up rents and land prices in the capital. They have also attracted a great deal of attention over the past three and a half years because of their political activities.

Many of the Afghan newcomers are rich and some are highly qualified technicians or specialists in various fields. Many also left Afghanistan at the right time, so to speak, and were thus able to bring a large part of their wealth with them. A large number of them are Afghans of Indian origin. Some have been in Kabul for generations. Some, along with thousands of indigenous Afghans, are seeking refugee status from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

Then there is a section of Afghans who, it appears, are here officially, they carry on their traditional business of dry fruits and other commodities. Some of them have reportedly managed to earn some extra money by attempting to get refugee status from the UNHCR. This status would enable them to free medical and educational aid besides a cash allowance of \$ 2 Rs. 100 per individual.

TWO TYPES

Broadly speaking, there are two types of the so-called Afghan refugees in the capital. There are those trying to emigrate to the United States—the only country in the world which has a quota and a definite programme for Afghan refugees. For this they have to

The second are those who have no intention of leaving India for another country. They plan to return to Afghanistan one day, even though that possibility may be rather remote. Those who have the money have, therefore, invested in landed property to prepare themselves for a long stay here.

Some in the second group are not well off. Their attempt at seeking refugee status is, therefore, aimed primarily at getting financial assistance. Many of these families and individuals have taken accommodation — mostly single-room tenements and Baryats — in groups. Hence, they can afford to pay much higher rents than the natives. Landlords in the South Delhi colonies have been only too eager to exploit this situation. For a Baryati or one-room tenement, which would normally fetch landlords Rs. 400 per month, can now fetch them anything between Rs. 600 to Rs. 700.

The Afghan issue, which is a peculiar one indeed, has caused some embarrassment to the government which has refused to recognise the Afghans as refugees. Still it has permitted the UNHCR, under the aegis of the United Nations development programme (UNDP), to help these refugees emigrate to the U.S.

NOT HARASSED

Further, even those Afghans who do not have the refugee status from the UNHCR are not being harassed regarding the extension of visas and related problems, though the foreign registration office (FRRO) has been somewhat strict in some cases. However, if the visa rules are uniform, the United Government, however, it refuses to waive any arduousness. For Afghans, it is appreciated the Indian government's "benevolent" attitude towards them.

The UNHCR, which has shifted its office to a house in Golt Links from the UNDP complex to cope with the flood of refugees, has so far granted refugee status in more than 900 "cases" — roughly 200 people. A "case" can mean just one individual or a whole family unit. Of these two "cases" have already left for the U.S. and another 490 "cases" have received clearance from the U.S. authorities to emigrate. They are waiting for sponsorship at present.

The UNHCR is determined to see that none of the medical and educational facilities are misused by the refugees. "If you have a toothache, we will definitely get that seen to. But if you want cosmetic improvements — no," says a UN spokesman. He confided that many Afghans though being granted refugee status had been refused allowances, as they were affluent enough. Each application from families and individuals was being scrutinized thoroughly.

However, it appears that there is a section of Afghans that is allegedly "infiltrating" into the ranks of the refugees to collect information about their activities and also create disturbances. Another section of Afghans has already been smuggling guns and narcotics into India. According to some Afghans, these bad elements belong to a certain politico-religious party that has been banned in Iran and has now turned its attention to India.

Many Afghans have been advertising in newspapers about lost pas-

ports. Some may be genuine cases but it is suspected that there are definite motives behind this racket. An Afghan source notes that Pakistan does not permit an Afghan to enter the country if he has already entered it once. Those reportedly involved in smuggling guns or narcotics thus "lose" their passports and supply for new ones.

KABUL AGENTS

Even "government infiltrators" might be doing the same to evade detection. Of course, there are others who have sold durable goods entered in their passports and losing these documents is the only way of avoiding detection.

There are many nationalist groups of Afghans in the capital, but their activities mercifully have been limited to peaceful demonstrations and poster campaigns. They also provide Western newspapers and various agencies with the latest information on the Afghanistan situation. To engage in terrorist activities would be self-defeating for them.

So far, not a single terrorist incident has been reported in India involving the Afghans. Still, the Indian intelligence agencies cannot be complacent about certain Afghan elements. In fact, during the visit of the Soviet President, Mr. Leonid Brezhnev, to New Delhi last year, many Afghans were placed under house arrest and the route of his motorcade was changed several times.

SOCIALIST PARTY TO JOIN BENGAL LEFT FRONT

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Jul 81 p 9

[Text] Howrah, July 5--The West Bengal unit of the All-India Socialist Party has decided to join the Left Front. A resolution adopted at the political conference of the workers of the West Bengal State Committee of the party at Howrah Town Hall on Sunday said since the CPI(M)-dominated Left Front had decided to establish socialism in the country through parliamentary democracy, the AISP would join the Front to fight "authoritarian forces" and bring social justice.

Mr Arun Prosad Mitra, general secretary of the State Unit, claimed that Mr Promode Das Gupta, chairman of the Front, had already accepted them as "associated partner."

In the recent Rajya Sabha election three of their MLAs, one being out of the country at present, had voted for the Front candidates. During the last municipal election, they had an electoral adjustment with the Front.

Mr Raj Narain, the AISP leader came to Calcutta to meet leaders of different parties, including Mr Das Gupta on Monday. Mr Raj Narain called a meeting of all prominent socialist leaders in Lucknow on July 9 and 10.

Earlier, Mr Raj Narain while inaugurating the political conference said that the major problem of the country was the misrule of Mrs Gandhi. All other problems like unemployment, price rise and law and order situation were its consequences. He alleged that Mrs Gandhi had come to power by making false promises to the people. Questionable means were adopted in the by-elections, in Uttar Pradesh and even police help was sought to secure votes for the Congress(I).

Regarding the role of Opposition parties he said that they had virtually been converted to "prayer and petition groups" without doing any good to the country.

The conference in other resolutions supported the Left Front Government's decision to abolish English from the primary stage and demanded an end to rigging in elections.

(SD: 4220/7196

CONGRESS-I WELCOMES FORMER MAHARASHTRA MEMBERS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Jul 81 p 1

[Text]

BOMBAY, July 5.—While 27 legislators and a few "regional level" former office-bearers of the Maharashtra Congress were "heartily welcomed" into the Congress(I) in a "forget-the-past" atmosphere today, national leaders like Mr Y. B. Chavan may have to fulfil some norms before they are admitted into the party, report UNI and PTI.

The legislators include 24 MLAs and three MLAs. Among them are three former PDF Ministers. They were admitted to the Congress(I) at a function here attended by the AICC(I) general secretary, Mr Vasantdada Patil, the Chief Minister, Mr A. R. Antulay and the Pradesh Congress(I) president, Mr Gulabdas Patil.

Mr Vasantdada Patil told reporters that the Congress(I) Working Committee would meet in Delhi before the end of this month to discuss the admission of Mr Chavan, and other leaders to the Congress(I). The decision of the Working Committee would be final.

The Working Committee would also consider the issue of admission of Mr Shyam Charan Shukla, Mr Baliram Bhagat, Mr K. C. Pant and Mr Banarasi Das Gupta to the party, Mr Patil said.

He said the Working Committee might fix some "norms" for national-level Congress(U) leaders seeking entry into the party. Some members of CWC(I) might express reservations about admitting all these leaders.

He said there were certain individuals who had deposed before the Shah Commission against Mrs Gandhi and whose entry might damage the party.

Asked about his remark "forget-the-past" made while welcoming

the 27 former Congress(U) legislators into the party, he said this policy was to be adopted only at the regional level. A different criterion would be followed for national leaders.

The Maharashtra Chief Minister, Mr A. R. Antulay, said today that the personality of Mrs Gandhi was not a cult, but a cementing and cohesive force for national integration.

Addressing the Congress(U) legislators and workers who joined the Congress(I) today, Mr Antulay said they must understand the true implications of their entry into the party. Their slogans against the so-called personality cult of Mrs Gandhi had been totally rejected by the people all over the country.

Another implication of their joining the Congress(I) was that the people had overwhelmingly rejected "your contention and efforts" to condemn the so-called internal dictatorship in the Congress(I), Mr Antulay said.

Mr Antulay told the new entrants that they were joining the party under the leadership of Mrs Gandhi to work obediently, loyally and honestly and not with ideas of improving the working of the party or the personality of the leader.

CONGRESS-I DISSIDENTS WARNED AGAINST CRITICISM

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Gandhinagar, July 6.

The All-India Congress (I) committee general secretary, Mr. Vasantdada Patil, today warned dissident leaders that the party would be forced to take strict action against them if they refused to mend their ways and continued to behave in an indisciplined manner.

Talking to newsmen, Mr. Patil, who is here in connection with the July 9 Rajya Sabha elections from Gujarat, said the dissidents in any state would be treated in the same way as they were in Madhya Pradesh where Mr. Vidya Charan Shukla was dropped from the Central cabinet for airing dissensions against the party government in the public.

He said such criticism could not merely be considered as difference of opinion. No responsible member of the party should take issues to the public. If they had any grievance, it should be referred to the party forum and guidance sought from the leader. But in no circumstances, the party government should be criticised in the public, he added.

Mr. Patil, however, disagreed that there was any groupism, at least in the state legislature party, and expressed the confidence that all the three party candidates for the Rajya Sabha elections would emerge victorious.

Asked about the role played by the supporters of Mr. Ratubhai Adani, the main rival of the chief minister, Mr. Madhavsingh Solanki, in openly criticising the performance of the state government, Mr. Patil tersely remarked, "You have seen what has happened in M.P."

He said the party leadership would try to convince the dissidents against indulging in such public criticism but, if they still refused to mend their ways, they would meet the same fate as the dissidents in M.P., he warned.

Asked about the organisational elections, Mr. Patil said it was proposed to hold them between October and December. In case the elections could not be organised, the party set-ups in some states would be reconstituted and ad hoc committees appointed.

In Gujarat, too, he said, organisational elections would be held by December, failing which an ad hoc committee appointed. But he ruled out any possibility of changes in the present set-up at least until September.

About Mr. Y. B. Chavan seeking entry into the Congress(I), he said the next meeting would try to decide some norms in giving entry to members from other parties. It was particularly to decide about such people who had appeared before the Shah commission and took a stand against Mrs. Indira Gandhi and the party and divulged government secrets. However, he indicated that Mr. Chavan's entry would be settled favourably at the next meeting.

CSO: 4220/7247

MECHALAYA TO SEAL OFF BORDER WITH BANGLADESH

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Jul 81 p 1

[Text]

SHILLONG, July 3.—The Meghalaya Government has decided to seal off vulnerable points along the 168-km-long border of the State with Bangladesh to check infiltration, reports PTI.

In an interview with All-India Radio, Shillong, Mr Williamson Sangma, Chief Minister, said he would discuss details of the scheme with Central leaders during his visit to New Delhi in the next few days.

A committee, headed by the state's Additional Chief Secretary, Mr R. V. Lanyoch, including personnel of the Border Security Forces and the Survey of India, was already working out proposals. Whether parts of the border should be fenced with barbed wire or building of concrete walls erected to dissuade intruders, the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister said an additional battalion of the B S F was being deployed to reduce the gap between the one watch post and the other. The State's home guards and village defence parties were being strengthened for effective patrolling in the border areas, he said.

Police forces would be reinforced in border outposts to combat crimes, including theft of cattle and lifting of materials like lime stone, Mr Sangma added.

The Mizoram Government has, meanwhile, tightened security measures along the Bangladesh border to check the infiltration by Chakma tribals from Bangladesh, official sources said in Aizawl today. Patrolling by border forces in vulnerable areas has also been intensified.

LETTER TO GANDHI REFUTES HARYANA, PUNJAB WATER CLAIMS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Jul 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] Former Union Minister Raj Bahadur has in a letter to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, strongly pleaded against any reduction of Rajasthan's legitimate share of the Ravi-Beas waters for the benefit of Punjab and Haryana.

Mr Raj Bahadur, who had sent an urgent telegram to Mrs Gandhi on 4 July, recalled in his letter dated Monday (6 July) that Rajasthan was allotted 8 MAF out of the total estimated available 15.85 MAF of Ravi and Beas waters under an inter-State agreement concluded far back in 1958-59.

Rajasthan was given priority and precedence in the sharing of Ravi-Beas waters that come to India's share under the River Water Treaty with Pakistan precisely because our nation builders and planners had placed the need for reclamation of Rajasthan's vast desert lands first and foremost in comparison with those areas already provided with some amount of irrigation facilities, he explained.

But in the light of the conflicting claims of Punjab and Haryana, Mr Raj Bahadur held, the people of Rajasthan would and must regard the contemplated step to reduce Rajasthan's share of the river waters as an 'unmitigated tragedy' which should be resisted 'at all costs'.

'This is a matter on which the entire people of Rajasthan, irrespective of political affiliations or loyalties would and must stand united to demand that even the slightest reduction in their legitimate share of Ravi-Beas waters (of 8 MAF) shall not be allowed or tolerated,' he affirmed.

In his telegram, on 4 July, Mr Raj Bahadur had written 'Rajasthan allotted an irreducible share of eight MAF under an unalterable and irrevocable inter-state agreement. Pray prevent infringement of said agreement in any shape, manner or extent and safeguard and defend the rights and interests of backward Rajasthan.'

The decision to allot a slightly higher share in Ravi-Beas waters to Rajasthan than to Punjab in the late fifties (giving 8 MAF to Rajasthan and 7 MAF to the much smaller erstwhile composite state of Punjab), he said, was prompted by the realisation that even if all the feasible surface and ground water resources for irrigation within and outside the State (including Rajasthan's share of waters in Ravi-Beas) were fully harnessed, only 23 per cent of the total

culturable area of the State could possibly be provided with some sort of irrigational facilities.

He referred to the plea made on behalf of Punjab and Haryana that since Rajasthan had not yet been able to build the necessary feeder canal to utilise its share of Ravi-Beas waters, the share should be reduced in reply to this plea, he asserted: 'The people of Rajasthan have already been groaning for generations under the curse of economic backwardness and lack of resources; added to which has been the inability of incompetence of the successive State Governments to provide the necessary resources to build up the requisite infra-structure to make full use of the State's share of Ravi-Beas waters. It would be heaping yet another curse on the people of Rajasthan if for no fault of theirs they are now deprived or cheated of their rightful and legitimate share of Ravi-Beas waters (which so far remains their only hope for the future) on the specious plea of the failure on the part of the Rajasthan State authorities to build up the feeder canal.

If it is allowed to be taken to its logical conclusion this failure may be held to be attributable not only to the State Governments but in a considerable measure to the Central Government as well, since the latter refused or failed to provide the resources needed to complete their works.'

Mr. B. Bahadur further lamented that the proposal of the Rajasthan Government to the Ganga Flood Control Commission as far back as 1973-74, for sparing a small portion of the Ganga and Yamuna waters during the flood season to western Rajasthan had till date not been accepted.

2257

INDO-SOVIET TELEVISION, FILM EXCHANGE ARRANGED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Jul 81 p 3

[Article by Vinod Taksal]

[Text] Moscow, July 8--Indo-Soviet exchanges in the fields of films and television programmes are to get a massive boost following Deputy Information and Broadcasting Minister Kumudben Joshi's talks here.

Miss Joshi, who has arrived here leading the Indian delegation at the 12th Moscow International Film Festival which opened last evening has already had wide-ranging talks with Soviet Cinematography Committee Chairman Filipp Yermash and Soviet Minister Muhammedevo.

Following the discussions, she told newsmen that Soviet Union had agreed to supply large number of films and TV programmes, dubbed in Hindi and English and also full length children's films to prop up and extend children's programmes to TV.

Miss Joshi who leaves for Bulgaria on 12 July on a four-day visit, is to conclude Bulgarian cultural agreement on radio and TV programmes exchanges in Sofia.

She said while India lacked the multi-channel telecasting facilities yet the fare dished out by Doordarshan could be bolstered in both quality and quantity with the help of Soviet and Bulgarian films and programmes.

Exchanges with these countries would be sought, she said, towards enriching such TV programmes as children's time and Krishi Darshan. The Minister also said that the joint Indo-Soviet product on Nehru promoted some time back, would get under way following the government's decision to appoint well-known film personality Shyam Benegal as the co-director for the venture. She hoped necessary ground-work would be completed during her stay here.

CSO: 4220/1257

ALL-INDIA FORWARD BLOC SECRETARIAT MEETS IN DELHI

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Jul 81 p 4

[Text] The All-India Forward Bloc has noted with dismay the position of parties like the Lok Dal, Janata and the BJP on the Assam problem and observed that this stand "in the final analysis helps the parochial, chauvinistic and separatist forces" in Assam.

The Central Secretariat of the AIFB, which met in the Capital from 5 to 7 July, demanded that the Government must work out a practical solution of the problem "consistent with the aspirations of the people of Assam, constitutional obligations towards minorities, commitment to the nation and international agreements".

The secretariat expressed dissatisfaction over the Government's failure to work out a practical solution of the Assam problem, but at the same time held that the AASU and AAGSP were insisting upon impractical and harmful proposals which would put in jeopardy the rights of minorities, both religious and linguistic, and harm the cause of communal harmony, amity and national integration.

The secretariat urged upon the Opposition parties to realise the implications of the developing situation and "build a broad-based action-oriented platform of action to halt the growing menace of authoritarianism which has received another boost after the byelections."

It noted with alarm recent speeches of Central Ministers and leaders of the ruling party which amounted to 'open encouragement' to the toppling game the Cong-I was indulging in the States of West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura in alliance with other communal, reactionary, chauvinist and parochial forces".

It congratulated the people of West Bengal for their continuing support to the Left Front Government as witnessed in the recent victories in the byelections and municipal poll. The secretariat was convinced that the people would continue to stand solidly by the Left Front and defeat all machinations for whichever quarter they may emanate.

The secretariat was concerned over the acquisition of sophisticated military equipments by Pakistan from the US, but maintained a studied silence on the Chinese material help to Pakistan. It decried the attempts of the US and other imperialist powers to internationalise the Kampuchean issue, but here too was conspicuous in its reluctance to denounce the Peking move against the Indo-Chinese countries.

It welcomed the recent visit of the Foreign Minister of China to India and the results of the New Delhi talks. The secretariat urged the Indian Government to continue the border talks and strive towards bringing about a solution in a manner "consistent with the historical friendship (between India and China), national feelings and commitment of the people and the Government of this country, in mutual faith and understanding and on the basis of equality and legitimate honour."

CSO: 4220/7257

DELHI OFFICIALS REFUTE REPORT ON BORDER POSTS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Jul 81 p 5

[Text] The Border Security Force is deployed as close to the border as permitted by the terrain both in the west and in the east, according to official sources in Delhi, reports PTI.

The border outposts are actually closer to each other on the Assam-Bangladesh border than they are on the Punjab-Pakistan border.

Sources strongly refuted statements made to the contrary by a team of Assam movement leaders after a visit to the Wagah border on Sunday night and Monday morning.

Although the Indo-Bangladesh ground rules for the border require no military structures within 150 yards of the border, some BSF out-posts (BOP's) are right on the border in places like Karimganj and Mankachar towns which extend right up to the border.

Sources said if some of the BOP's were some distance from the border, it was because of tactical and terrain considerations.

BOP's have to be on raised ground and should be defensible in the event of an attack, they noted. They could not be erected either on mid-stream char lands or on the low-lying riverside because these are frequently flooded by the Brahmaputra.

The average distance of BOP's both on the east and the west is 500 yards from the border.

The real reason for continued infiltration into Assam in contrast to Punjab is the attitude of the border population, sources said.

The infiltrators are soon identified and handed over to the police by the people of Punjab. Only spies, smugglers and other criminals attempt to cross the border and are usually caught by the BSF.

The Assamese on the other hand are chary of settling on the border because of the difficult living there, the sources said.

The Assam-Bangladesh border is peopled almost entirely by those who have come from Bangladesh and settled there for years. They are not only not hostile to the newcomers but often invite them over.

They certainly have not obeyed the 10-year-old regulation requiring them to report the presence of strangers to the police.

This is why the BSF depends heavily on patrolling for checking infiltration from Bangladesh.

But infiltration is not on any big scale now because of the awakening of the general Assam population that further influx should be stopped.

CSO: 4220/7257

DELHI POLICY ON NON-CONGRESS-I STATES NOTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, July 9.

Contrary to the impression conveyed by the recent statements of Mr. Yogendra Makwana, Minister of State for Home Affairs, the Centre does not contemplate precipitate action at present against non-Congress (I) Governments, even though it is not happy with all that is happening in the States governed by them.

New Delhi's stand on the inquiry commissions, appointed by the Tamil Nadu and Kerala Governments too, will be governed by the existing law, and there will be no attempt to browbeat the two Governments into taking measures that are not called for under the legal provisions, according to authoritative sources.

Pressure from Party Units

The attitude towards the non-Congress (I) Governments, especially those in Kerala and West Bengal, is based on an overall assessment of the present situation. Though there is considerable pressure from the Congress (I) units in the two States for Central intervention, New Delhi prefers a cautious line.

The Congress (I) units want the Centre, to proceed against the Governments of West Bengal and Kerala, because of the steady increase of political violence. The Centre, however, continues to hold the view that the dismissal of these Governments would only give a halo of martyrdom to the ruling parties in these States, and thus help them in the next Assembly elections. This was New Delhi's view when the demand for action was first made, and it still continues to be the position now.

Inquiry Commissions

The Centre does not intend asking the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala to wind up their inquiry commissions. This is because, under the existing law, the State Governments are not obliged to do that and the Centre sees no point in giving an informal advice. This is the stand at present, based on the preliminary examination of the issues involved by legal experts. The situation could change only if further study of the legal provisions throws up new points in favour of the Centre.

According to the preliminary study, there is not an iota of doubt about the Centre's competence to order the type of inquiry it has initiated through the Ray Commission. At the same time, the action does not make the probes ordered by the two Governments untenable in any way. This is the latest conclusion, based on the interpretation of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, in particular, of the proviso (b) to Section 3(8), which enunciates the relative powers of the Centre and the States on the setting up of inquiry commissions.

It says: "Where any such commission has been appointed to inquire into any matter (a) by the Central Government, no State Government shall, except with the approval of the Central Government, appoint another commission to inquire into the same matter for so long as the commission appointed by the Centre is functioning; (b) by a State Government, the Central Government shall not appoint another commission to inquire into some matter for so long as the commission appointed by the State Government is functioning, unless the Central Government is of the opinion that the scope of the inquiry should be extended to two or more States."

CSO: 4220/7264

CALCUTTA SEES DELHI-BENGAL RELATIONS STILL STRAINED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Jul 81 p 9

[Text] Calcutta, July 6: With no sign of thaw in the West Bengal government's relationship with the government of India, a suggestion is being repeated in state ministerial circles that the chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, should personally take up the outstanding Centre-state issues with the Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi, to get these resolved.

The immediate issues relate to the Centre withholding its consent to nine state legislations and asking for clarification in regard to four others; lack of progress in regard to several proposals for new industries which have remained pending before the Centre for a long time; and the planned shift of several Central government establishments from West Bengal.

The bills to which consent has been withheld include a few important ones relating to land reforms and improvement of Calcutta as well as take-over of the management of five educational institutions. Concerned ministers seem convinced that further efforts at secretarial or ministerial level to get these cleared will be of no use.

The state government today released a copy of the reply from the minister of state for defence, Mr. Shivraj Patil to Mr. Basu's June 4 communication to the prime minister, suggesting the location of one of the two Bharat Electronics Limited units in West Bengal.

(S0: 4220/1247

KERALA LEGISLATURE DISCUSSES MARXIST MURDERS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Jul 81 p 5

[Text] Trivandrum, July 6: The chief minister, Mr. E. K. Nayanar, condemned in the state legislature today the murder of a CPI worker by alleged Marxists last Saturday. It was regrettable, it was wrong, he said.

He was trying to pacify the CPI and its leader and former chief minister, Mr. P. K. Vasudavan Nair, who directly asked the CPM to end its politics of murder.

Mr. Nair was overcome with emotion and confessed he could not speak more about this politics of murder when he described how two of his partymen, who had left the CPM, were murdered during the last three months. According to him, they were not isolated incidents their only crime was that they had left the CPM, he added. He was visibly upset when he quoted from the Marxist paper, DESHABHIMANI, which reported that Sreedharan Nair, who was murdered last Saturday, was an anti-social element. No political party should stoop that low, he said.

Mr. Nayanar assured him that the government would not condone murder. It would act against the men responsible for the murder, irrespective of party affiliation.

The occasion was the debate on general administration. The budget demand for general administration was voted after the chief minister's reply.

The CPM appeared to have taken the CPI's attack on the politics of murder very seriously. The party spokesman, Mr. M. V. Raghavan, also said the murder of the CPI worker was unfortunate.

The opposition maintained that the attack on the CPM by its own coalition partner was sufficient to show that law and order had broken down in the state. Even the coalition partners were not safe under the Marxists who held the home portfolio.

But the chief minister stoutly opposed the opposition contention. He said he was willing to resign if he could be convinced that the law and order situation in Kerala was worse than that in any of the other states in the country.

CSO: 4220/7249

PROBLEMS OF PACIFYING BORDER AREA REBELS TOLD

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Jul 81 p 5

[Text] Calcutta, July 8.

Twenty Naga rebels have been killed so far during combing operations by security forces around Phomching, an outpost, which the rebels had sought to storm on June 23.

Phomching is in Nagaland's northernmost Mon district, bordering Tirap district of Arunachal to the north, and adjacent to the international border with Burma. Two known rebel concentrations at Chunnu and Taihte are situated some miles to the east in Burma's inaccessible north.

Although separated only by some kilometres, a very high and difficult ridge intervenes on the border, which it is impossible to guard against infiltration. However, the combing operations following the attack on Phomching, which was the second of its kind in a few weeks, have been satisfactory. But the overall impact may not be decisively favourable.

In fact, as knowledgeable circles here point out, the situation in Nagaland may be said to have become uncertain again with fresh rebel infiltration from across the Burma border. It may yet be possible to stop a full-scale resurgence of insurgency within Nagaland. But that will not minimise the dangers because the septic spot in Burma remains unaffected.

Tie-up Finalised

The capture on Monday night of the Manipur PLA leader, Mr. Bisweswar Singh, and some of his aides might have been a breather for the security forces in view of positive indications of a PLA-NAGA rebel tie-up for operational and other purposes. But respite in the case of Nagaland may not be real or long-drawn.

It is believed that the details of this tie-up had been finalised at a meeting between the Naga rebel and PLA leaders in Imphal itself early this year, the former having taken shelter in the house of a prominent political leader of Manipur.

Similarly, in Nagaland today the ministry is believed to be divided between the supporters of Khamengkens and the underground national socialist council of

Nagaland, headquartered in northern Burma and having Muivah and Isaac Swu as its unquestioned leaders.

Just as the security forces' actions against some ministers and legislators in Manipur last year are now being questioned in the legislature, so are Nagaland politicians allegedly trying to stay the hand of the security forces in their current operations against rebel elements.

Burmese Nagas

It may have been possible for the NSCN leadership to get over the difficulties in the wake of clashes with Khamengens to cross over to Nagaland for safety some time ago. Most of these fugitives have since gone back to their respective areas in Burma.

In the meantime, there have been positive signs of the NSCN replenishing its rank and file with new recruits, interestingly, mostly from Nagaland itself in preference to the Burmese Hemi Nagas, who numerically outnumber Nagas living in Nagaland. Some of these recruits are even known to have returned out of frustration or the sheer dislike of the life they were required to get used to.

As a result, the NSCN hard-core is now estimated at over 1,000, but mostly in Burma and possessing far more fire power and tactical training than the PLA activists. They have been making forays inside Nagaland, the most dangerous aspect of such activities being that these have started taking place in the sensitive trijunction of the Tirup, Nagaland and Burma borders.

One authoritative estimate is that the NSCN is in a position to control the relatively unadministered Burmese strip of territory lying between the Indian border and the Chindwin river in Burma. The Somra tract is within this strip.

Among other forces active in the area are the Burmese communist party, which is supposed to be in virtual control of extensive territories lying alongside Yunnan in China, as well as areas along the Chindwin. The intervening tract is supposed to be under the control of Kachins and their rebel organisation, KIA.

The NSCN is believed to have developed ties with both the BCP and KIA, reducing its dependence on Chinese support which, according to one version, had diminished considerably because of the NSCN's failure to show better results. This lends support to reports that the NSCN has of late been trying to procure arms through the KIA, which is getting their supplies from Thailand.

Should this assessment of the overall situation on India's northeast frontier be even partially correct, it points to dangerous possibilities in future not only for Burma, but India as well. A significant spurt in rebel activities inside Nagaland in recent weeks are pointers in the same direction.

The Prospects

The security forces' success in Manipur and the possibility of an amicable settlement with the Mizoram MNF constitute a silver lining though.

But should the Mizoram talks fail, the security forces may have a tougher time in that area than in the recent past, with the situation in Nagaland having heated up already.

The latest indications are that Tripura national volunteers, the underground fighting wing of Tripura tribals' organisation recently sent a delegation with funds to Bangladesh to procure arms.

Given a settlement in Mizoram in the near future, the possibility to some of the surplus MNF arms finding way to the TNV is not ruled out either. A section of the Tripura tribal youth is known to have been getting training from the MNF and Bangladesh.

CSO: 4220/7251

MINORITIES PANEL TO EXPAND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Jul 81 p 5

[Text] New Delhi, July 8 (UPI): The minorities commission plans to expand the scope of its activities to discharge more effectively the responsibilities assigned to it.

"We have sent our proposals to the government for early clearance", said the commission's chairman, Mr. M. H. Beg.

Mr. Beg said that with national integration as its central objective, the commission had to see how best to tackle the problems faced by minorities in various spheres so that they did not lag behind other communities.

This was "an enormous job" requiring in depth studies of various aspects like how the minorities fared in relation to the administration and their economic, social and intellectual welfare. For these purposes the commission proposed to set up research and legal divisions.

Mr. Beg said hitherto the commission had to depend largely on the information furnished by the Central and state governments. He thought the commission should have its own information wing.

Aid to Council

He said the commission would undertake area studies and try to send, wherever possible, its own teams to investigate complaints or grievances received by it.

Mr. Beg stressed that national integration was a must for all round progress. The interests of both the minorities and the majority would be best served only if there was national integration under a co-ordinated and comprehensive scheme ensuring cooperation between the Central and state agencies.

In this context, he personally thought that it would be useful to have a national integration commission consisting of representatives of various communities as an aid to the national integration council.

In reply to a question Mr. Beg said the desirability of giving statutory protection to minorities in education and services as in the case of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes was not being considered by the commission.

However, the demand for reservation for Harijans, who had embraced Buddhism, was being examined.

Other Methods

Though reservation was necessary to remove the problem created by prejudice and discrimination, Mr. Beg laid special emphasis on other modes of improving the lot of the minorities and other backward sections. In his view economic and intellectual backwardness should be the basis for conferring special benefits.

Even statutory protection should be a "temporary measure and it should not become an instrument of introducing inefficiency," the former chief justice of India pointed out.

Mr. Beg referred to the U.S. law under which even the private sector had to employ a certain percentage of persons from the minorities and weaker sections. The civil rights commission issued directives in this regard.

Mr. Beg noted with gratification that in India religion was not relevant for public appointments from the lowest to the highest. However, in the private sector there were complaints of discrimination, which could be removed only by widespread and better education, he said.

He spoke of the need for a "revolution" in education to remove factors which produced hostilities between the members of different communities, castes and creeds. Proper textbooks and practices, which brought children of different communities together, were necessary.

CSO: 4220/7251

UNITS TO EXPLORE RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES PLANNED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Jul 81 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, July 8 (UNI).

The government will soon set up a solar thermal energy centre, two centres for development of wind energy and two centres for research on biomass, it is learnt.

These centres are part of the government's ambitious programme for development of renewable sources of energy in the country.

While the country has a significant infrastructure for R and D related to renewable energy sources, a need was felt for the establishment of new specialised centres for promoting time-targeted and result-oriented development work, developing prototypes and systems and accelerating demonstration projects.

The proposed solar thermal energy centre is mainly intended for prototype development and analysis. The pre-commercial pilot plant and related programme at the Central electronics limited is expected to serve as a nucleus for photovoltaic research and development.

The two centres for wind energy are proposed to be set up around existing institutions. The centres will concentrate largely on the development of cheap windmills for low and medium power applications.

Work Defined

The two centres on research on biomass are being set up at the National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, and Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai. The objectives and functions of all the centres have been identified. The necessary provision has been made in the sixth plan for establishing them.

The centres will assist the newly-formed commission for additional sources of energy and update the data bank on renewable energy sources, disseminate technical information, provide technical guidance to potential users of renewable energy systems and undertake projects in the field.

Among solar thermal systems, water-heating units have been installed or are under installation at several locations, including hospitals, hotels, bakery and dairy units and textile mills. Many units have been installed on a commercial

basis. Units for drying grain, cash crops, timber, tobacco and veneer have been up at several locations. Cold-storage units for certain crops are being installed.

By February, 1981, six solar photovoltaic pumps had been installed at various places, including two villages. These pumps could be used for micro-irrigation and drinking water supply. It is expected that about 70 such pumps will be installed by the end of 1981.

Some of the initial pumps will be set up in agricultural universities and similar establishments from where it will be possible to obtain the necessary data on performance. The production of photovoltaic pumps will be spread all over the country, initially on a commercial basis. The cost of solar pump sets is expected to come down through R and D efforts and a large volume of production.

Specialised Uses

The country's first solar photovoltaic lighting system has been set up in Choglamsar village of the Ladakh region in Jammu and Kashmir state. Another village energy centre, utilising photovoltaic panels to power lights at a community centre and a community TV set has been commissioned in Charsarhati village of West Bengal.

The demand for photovoltaic systems for specialised applications such as offshore platforms, communication sets, community TV sets and rural telephones has been increasing recently.

The first community biogas plant in the country was established at Kodamunia village in Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh in 1976 and was financed by the Rural Electrification Corporation. Another community biogas plant was established by the UP government at Fatehsingh-ka-Purva village.

About 20 community biogas plants are now being established at various locations under a programme sponsored by the department of science and technology. The plants will provide gas for cooking as well as for running engines, pumpsets and generation of electricity.

CSO: 4220/7252

CAPTURED DOCUMENTS REVEAL INSURGENTS' PLANS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Jul 81 p 7

[Text] Shillong, July 8: Plans for coordinating and stepping up insurgent activities in Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura and Mizoram and for establishing rebel bases in Assam have come to light following the seizure of some documents from seven persons arrested recently in Arunachal Pradesh. Six of them belong to Manipur, while one is a Mizo.

The documents, as well as the interrogation of these men, revealed the formation of an organisation named "Nagaland National Socialist Council." This body, it is stated, has already established links with insurgents belonging to various ethnic groups in the north-eastern region. These include the outlawed Mizo National Front, the National Volunteer Force and the Manipur "Peoples' Liberation Army."

The precise nature of its links in Assam is not yet clear, though some recent violent incidents in that state suggest a possible link-up with Maoist groups.

The extremists are said to have established a 64-km. "corridor" across Arunachal Pradesh to provide easy access to the headquarters of Maoist groups in north Burma and China. As many as 42 persons have been arrested at various points along the corridor in recent weeks.

CSO: 4220/7752

PROSPECTS OF JOINT VENTURES WITH U.S. STUDIED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Jul 81 p 21

[Text] New Delhi, July 8: The prospects of Indo-U.S. ventures in third countries will be studied by a task force of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

These have been rated bright by an independent study which was presented at the recent meeting of the Indo-U.S. business council in Washington. This study report, prepared by Mr. Frank Wilson, said that Indo-American co-operation in the field of engineering was acceptable to the customer in the Middle East.

As a result of India's presentation at the business council meeting, misgivings about the investment procedures in India had been largely removed from the minds of the U.S. entrepreneurs, according to Mr. Arvind Lalbhai, who had led the Indian delegation.

The Indian side proved that the Indo-U.S. ventures were earning adequate returns, and were growing at a satisfactory rate and paying commensurate dividend.

Mr. Lalbhai said that the U.S. interest in India was expected to be revived. Dr. Bharat Ram, who was the co-leader of the delegation, said while multinationals knew about the opportunities available in India, smaller units in the U.S. had little information about India.

It was these small companies who would be interested in transferring sophisticated technologies for commercial considerations, Dr. Bharat Ram said. In reply to a question, he said that there was some disillusionment in the U.S. business circles about prospects of investments in China.

The business council meeting also covered trade matters and the Indian side highlighted the factors including the protectionist policies of the U.S. government that were hindering bilateral trade.

The suggestion that emerged from the business council meeting included long duration technology agreements, speedier licence approval, reduction in corporate taxation and ground rules for obtaining continuous services of foreign technologists in India.

The meeting suggested that the U.S. and India should enter into an agreement for avoiding double taxation.

CSO: 4220/7252

PROGRAM TO EXPAND ECONOMIC TIES WITH PRC FORMULATED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 Jul 81 pp 1, 7

[Article by K. K. Sharma]

[Text] New Delhi, July 8.--In anticipation of an improvement in Sino-Indian relations, a four-phase programme for the expansion of economic ties culminating in the formation of a joint commission has been formulated by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade.

A two-volume study by the Institute recommends that, in the second phase large-scale expansion of trade in products, projects and services may be envisaged through payment arrangements similar to those entered into with the centrally-planned economies.

In effect, this will involve the initiation of a rupee trade or barter system that is in operation with the Soviet Union and some East European countries, even though many of them have preferred to change over to settlements in convertible currency.

The Institute's report says that the mechanism of rupee-renminbi trade can assist in minimizing the pressure on foreign exchange reserves and help promote substantial trade turnover between India and China.

The system will envisage the opening of an account with the central monetary authority of each country--the Reserve Bank and the Bank of China. These will operate as a clearing account for the receipts and assets of each contracting party with a provision for granting "technical credits" in the event of trade not balancing.

The first stage proposed by the Institute is the formation of joint exploratory groups by both countries to identify products, projects, invisibles (such as shipping) and promotional measures for planned development of both bilateral trade and technical cooperation.

The third stage involves a joint marketing approach in respect of items of mutual interest for exports of Third World countries. Some items that maybe considered are tea, jute products and metals such as neobium, lithium and titanium. The report says that the suggestions are of a "tentative nature".

Trade with China was resumed in 1977 when an exploratory mission went to the Canton Fair. Since then, Indian public and private sector organizations have attended many others. Trade delegations have visited China which, in turn, took part in the Indian International Trade Fair in New Delhi in 1979.

India's trade with China increased nearly 10 items from a low Rs 2.38 crores 1977-78 to Rs 27.6 crores in 1978-79 and further to Rs 28.9 crores in 1979-80. India's exports rose from Rs 1.93 crores to Rs 26.43 crores in 1978-79 but subsequently declined to Rs 20.66 crores in 1979-80.

Imports from China, after registering a marginal rise from Rs 97 lakhs in 1977-78 to Rs 1.17 crores in 1978-79, increased substantially to Rs 8.229 crores in 1979-80.

PTI adds from Beijing: China believes that the "Sino-Indian border question could be settled in a fair and reasonable way provided the two Governments are sincere in holding negotiations and are imbued with mutual understanding and accommodation, all in a forward-looking spirit."

A commentary in today's Chinese Communist Party newspaper, PEOPLE'S DAILY, said "Good signs have been shown by the friendly hospitality accorded to Huang Hua, Foreign Minister, during his recent visit to India and his cordial talks with the Indian leaders".

CSO: 4220/7254

LOK DAL LEADER TALKS ON ANTIFASCIST PLATFORM

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 Jul 81 p 7

[Text] The Lok Dal leader, Mr George Fernandes, M.P., said in Calcutta on Wednesday that he was trying to build up an anti-fascist people's platform to prevent Mrs Gandhi from establishing a fascist order in the country. Any political party, which believed in democratic principles, could become a member of the proposed new body.

Mr Fernandes told reporters that some recent disturbing events suggested that Mrs Gandhi was bent on imposing fascist rule on the country. An undeclared emergency was now in force, he alleged. She might declare an emergency again, if there was a grave threat to her dynastic ambition, he added.

He felt that the sustained attack by important Congress (I) leaders on the judiciary, both inside and outside Parliament, was an effort to render the judiciary ineffective in protecting the civil and Constitutional rights of the people. Referring to the reported directive by the Karnataka Government to censure the mail of leaders of Opposition parties, he felt that a concerted drive was now being made to curtail the civil liberties of the common man. His own mail was being censored and his telephone was under round-the-clock surveillance, he alleged.

Two other ominous signs were physical attacks and liquidation of political and trade union workers and the misuse of the National Security Act to detain political and trade union workers. The detention of Mr Datta Samant in Maharashtra was a case in point. The Prime Minister's participation in the recent by-election campaign "to beg votes for her son" was against convention, he said.

Asked which parties he wanted to include in his proposed anti-fascist people's platform, he replied that all parties, including the CPI(M-L), the CPI(M) and the Bharatiya Janata Party, which wanted to fight Mrs Gandhi's designs, could join the platform. Asked how the BJP with its RSS connexion could join the platform, he replied that despite some Opposition reservations about the BJP, there could be no objection to making a united effort to preserve democratic institutions.

Asked to comment on the Left Front Government's performance in West Bengal, the Lok Dal leader said that he did not agree with some of their programmes and the arrogance of the Marxists. But just now they were fighting against Mrs Gandhi's fascist designs.

CSO: 4220/7254

NATION REPORTED SEEKING \$4 MILLION LOAN FROM IMF

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, July 3 (UNI)--India has sought a massive loan of \$4 billion from the International Monetary Fund to tide over its balance of payments difficulties caused largely by oil imports.

Official sources said today that they expected a favourable decision from the IMF, which had already extended similar credit facility to a number of countries including the United Kingdom.

The projects loan would be largely on commercial terms repayable in ten years with an interest of seven to eight per cent.

Oil Imports

India's trade deficit for 1980-81 would be over Rs 5,435 crores, according to provisional estimates, which is considerably higher than that of 1979-80. The heavy deficit is mainly due to high prices of imported crude and petroleum products.

Out of imports of the order of Rs 12,107 crores, oil imports alone have amounted to Rs 5,100 crores in 1980-81. Despite this heavy drain, India has still a comfortable foreign exchange reserve of Rs 4,400 crores.

According to policy-makers, India should be out of the woods by 1983 or 1984 as domestic oil production would go up considerably with the new potentialities indicated in off-shore areas and a concerted drive being launched to maximise exports, which should show a definite upswing over the next two years.

The sources point out that India's creditworthiness and financial standing in the world is so high now that it would be quite justified in seeking such a large credit accommodation from the IMF.

They referred to emcomiums paid by the World Bank study team, which came here recently, on the successful manner in which India had been able to moderate inflationary pressures.

The team had pinpointed how India had managed its economy better than many other countries where the inflation rate was even 30 per cent. In deciding for an assistance of \$3.2 billion for the current year, the recent Paris meeting of the Aid-India Consortium was guided by the good chit given by its own study team.

Also many other countries have been allowed by the IMF to draw even up to 600 per cent of their contribution to the Fund to meet balance of payments difficulties arising out of oil imports. But India had pitched its demand at a much lower level.

While its contribution to the IMF is of the order of \$1,980 million, it is approaching the Fund for double of this amount. Judging by the liberal stance taken by the IMF in the recent past, there should be no difficulty in its meeting India's request.

In August, India made its first drawing from the IMF trust fund to the tune of \$1 billion.

CSO: 4220/7183

MINISTER EXPLAINS ARREST OF BOMBAY LABOR LEADER

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Bombay, July 3--Mr N. M. Tidke, minister for labour, said here today that Dr Datta Samant had been arrested under the National Security Act not for his trade union work, but for his violent activities.

Mr Tidke who was talking to newsmen gave details of the violent activities in the jurisdiction of the unions under his control. He said in 1980-81, there had been 11 murders, 65 riots, 40 assaults, and 203 cases of intimidation and obstruction.

While Dr Samant's unions were involved in more than 50 per cent of the strikes and lock-outs at present no action had been against other unions involved in the remaining 50 per cent. He gave these figures to substantiate his claim that no action had been taken against bonafide trade union activities.

Mr Tidke also pointed out that as late as May, Mr K. N. Dhulap, president of the NRC Mazdoor Union, had complained about the violent activities of Dr Samant.

Mr Tidke said the chief minister told a deputation of trade union leaders yesterday that action against Dr Samant had been taken for his violent activities and that he would not be released.

The labour minister appealed to trade union leaders in the interest of the labour movement to mobilise public opinion against such violent activities.

CSO: 4220/7183

MINISTER COMMENTS ON LAW, ORDER IN TAMIL NADU

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Madurai, July 4 (PTI)--The Union minister of state for home, Mr Yogendra Makwana, said today the law and order situation in Tamil Nadu, although it had not broken down, was "certainly deteriorating" and "it is not satisfactory."

The minister made this observation at a news conference here when asked about his impression of law and order situation in the state at the conclusion of his two-day tour of the riot-hit areas in Ramanathapuram district and visit to Meenakshipuram in Tirunelveli district, where there had been mass conversion of Harijans to Islam recently.

Mr Makwana said the state government had failed to protect the weaker sections of society. Wherever he had gone, the people complained that police had failed to give them protection, resulting in loss of property because of arson and looting.

Instead of giving protection to the weaker sections, the police had sided with the stronger sections as was evident from the arrest of 247 persons belonging to the weaker sections against only 47 caste Hindus in connection with the April riots and arson, he said.

Mr Makwana said the state government had not taken any action against officials responsible for the deterioration of the situation in Ramanathapuram. Action could have been taken under the civil rights protection act against abettors, but this was not done, he said.

When told of the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M. G. Ramachandran's statement that two political parties were behind the riots, and they were not a caste conflict, he said: "If it is so, why did not he identify the parties." His statement might have emboldened the officials who were idle and inactive, he added.

Asked whether he was satisfied with the relief measures taken up by the state government, he said there was no question of satisfaction because many more things needed to be done. He said restoration of looted property to their owners was the responsibility of the state government.

Mr Makwana held the Tamil Nadu government primarily responsible for the recent mass conversion.

The minister said he himself being a Harijan did not think that a change of religion would be a solution to problems. Only time would tell whether the mass conversion was right or wrong, he added.

On the recent mass conversion of nearly 500 Harijans to Islam, Mr Makwana said it was conversion not out of conviction but out of frustration as Harijans suffered humiliation and neglect in Hindu society.

CSO: 4220/7189

ASSAM NONCOMMUNIST PARTIES BID TO FORM GOVERNMENT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Jul 81 p 4

[Text] Gauhati, July 2 (UNI, PTI)--Leaders of five non-Communist legislature parties of Assam have informed Governor L. P. Singh that they are making a joint effort to form ministry and submitted a list of 42 members supporting them, Raj Bhavan sources said.

The parties were Janata, Congress-U, Assam Janata Dal, Lok Dal and the Progressive Democratic Front (PDF). The list included Mr Golap Borbora, former Chief Minister (Janata), Mr Sarat Chandra Sinha (Congress-U) and Mr Jogendra Nath Hazarika (Assam Janata Dal), the sources said.

Commenting on the statement of Mr Sinha and Mr Barbora that the Governor seemed to have acted in a hurry to impose the President's rule, the sources said, "It is less than fair."

Before recommending President's rule, the Governor had met the communist members and the tea-group MLAs who informed him what they had not given any assurance to any party on forming a ministry.

Meanwhile, the six-member tea garden labour members at a meeting today reiterated that they would function as independent members in the Assembly.

Tea Workers

The five legislators representing the tea garden community reiterated that they would maintain 'separate independent identity' in the House.

The tea garden MLAs groal at a meeting here, reviewed the present political situation in the State and called upon the tea and ex-tea garden labour population to rally behind them to press for fulfillment of their seven point demands.

The meeting cautioned the tea community against the 'vested interests who are at work with money and power' to frustrate their efforts for fulfillment of the demands. Mr Dipak Murmoo leader of the Groal presided.

CSO: 4220/7181

CONGRESS-I COUNCIL CHIEFS ELECTED IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Hyderabad, July 9.

All the nine official Congress (I) candidates were elected Chairmen of Zilla Parishads in the Telengana region today in an election marked by a total lack of enthusiasm at the outcome of the contest conducted by a show of hands.

Rival groups in the districts which till the last minute put up stout fights for their nominees did not make any attempt to defy the party dictate obviously fearing disciplinary action and possible expulsion from the party.

The Chief Minister, Mr. T. Anjiah, had mollified the group interests by offering the chairman's post to one group and the Vice Chairman's post to the rival group with a promise that the disappointed aspirant would be accommodated as a member of the Legislative Council at a later stage.

The Advocate General, Mr. P. Ramachandra Reddi, and the top officials studied the implications of the Supreme Court staying the election to the Nellore Zilla Parishad earlier scheduled for this Sunday, when the elections to the 12 other Zilla Parishads in Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema districts would be held.

The following are the newly elected chairmen of the Zilla Parishads:

Medak: Mr. R. Mutyam Reddi; Ranga Reddi: G. Krishna, MLA; Mahboobnagar: V. N. Gowd; Nizamabad: Mr. Ghulam S. Madani, MLA; Khammam: Mrs. Vani Ramana Rao; Warangal: Mr. M. Narasimha Reddi; Adilabad: Mr. B. Sitapati; Karimnagar: Mr. P. Kishan Rao and Nalgonda: Mr. C. Malla Reddi.

No Quorum

The election of vice chairman of the Nalgonda Zilla Parishad did not take place today for want of quorum.

After Mr. C. Malla Reddi was unanimously elected Chairman, there was a short gap before the election of the Vice Chairman was taken up. When the meeting was convened, it was found that there was no quorum and the meeting was adjourned without the election being held.

The officials in Nalgonda said the meeting to elect the Vice Chairman had been fixed for 10.30 a.m. tomorrow.

CSO: 4220/7264

MANIPUR CHIEF MINISTER REPORTS ON INSURGENCY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 Jul 81 p 14

[Text] Imphal, July (PTI): The Manipur chief minister, Mr. Rishang Keishing told the state assembly today that altogether 289 extremists had so far been captured and another 199 had surrendered before the authorities.

Altogether 244 arms, of which 106 were snatched from security personnel, were also recovered from them, Mr. Keishing added.

Mr. Keishing told PTI that the army would be withdrawn after the insurgency problem was solved, and appealed to the people to co-operate with the government in restoring peace in the state.

Mr. Keishing, however, said that it would take a little more time than expected for withdrawal of the army from Manipur, as the problems of insurgency were not only in the plains, but also in the hills.

The chief minister said that the 'backbone' of the outlawed People's Liberation Army (PLA) had been smashed with the capture of its leader, Mr. N. Bisheswar Singh.

He called upon the 'misguided brothers' to lay down their arms and join the national mainstream, adding that without peace the development schemes could not be implemented properly.

CSO: 4220/7260

'UNI' INTERVIEW WITH SHEIKH ABDULLAH REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 Jul 81 p 13

[Text] Srinagar, July 9 (UNI): The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Sheikh Abdullah, has said he does not believe there are any differences between the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and himself.

"There is no question of any differences. We are pursuing the same goals and objectives," he told UNI in an interview.

The Sheikh said the ideologies of the Congress (I) and the National Conference were identical. However, in a democratic system differences were bound to crop up, he added.

Replying to another question, he said he had an open mind about reducing the present six-year term of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly to five years.

When the six-year term was fixed for the assembly, there were "circumstances" warranting this measure. The "circumstances" had not changed radically since then, he remarked.

The continued presence of foreign troops in the neighbouring countries, he said, was bound to cause tensions along the Indian borders.

"The Chinese troops are not far. The sinister developments in the Indian Ocean do not portend well for the whole region", the Sheikh said.

Asked if he approved of Pakistan going nuclear, the Kashmir leader said it was not good for weak and underdeveloped countries to fritter their resources and energy on acquiring nuclear weapons.

However, utilising nuclear energy for peaceful purposes was a different matter, he added.

The Sheikh replied in the negative when asked India and Pakistan would engage themselves in another war in case the Kashmir problem was not resolved peacefully in accordance with the Simla agreement.

The recent trends had shown that the peoples of the two countries had realised the folly of going to war with one another, he said.

Asked whether the substantial economic and military aid provided by the Reagan administration to Pakistan would not endanger peace in the Indian sub-continent, the Sheikh said it was the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan that had pushed Pakistan further into the arms of the United States.

'UNI' INTERVIEW WITH SHEIKH ABDULLAH SUMMARIZED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Jul 81 p 4

[Text] Srinagar, July 2 (UNI)--Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah does not think Pakistan's acquiring of sophisticated US arms posed any threat to India.

In an interview with UNI he said Pakistan which was the only 'buffer' in the region after the Soviet presence in Afghanistan had been caught in the design of the super powers.'

The US had its own interest in Pakistan.

Asked whether Pakistan emboldened by the acquisition of most modern arms might not embark on any aggressive action on the borders of Jammu and Kashmir, the Sheikh said it would be foolish for Pakistan to consider any such move.

The Sheikh noted that Pakistan had been saying that it faced a serious threat from Soviet forces in Afghanistan. He said India conceded Pakistan's right to acquire arms it needed for its defence. He cited External Affairs Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao's joint statement with Pakistan Foreign Minister Agha Shahi in this context.

Pakistan had fought three wars with India and should have learnt its lessons now.

On Kashmir the Sheikh said the problems which had defied a solution for the past 34 years could be solved on a 'give and take' basis.

Cong-I Congress

Asked about the Congress-I criticism of his government the Sheikh said the party had little following in the State.

Referring to talk among Congress-I circles that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi could topple the non-Congress-I government in a day he deplored the tact that the ruling party at the Centre wanted to be in power in all the States.

Replying to a question whether he was planning any coordinated action with parties like the CPI-M which was in power in Kerala and West Bengal, and the All-India Anna DMK in Tamilnadu to meet the Congress-I challenge the Sheikh said these States too faced difficulties with the Centre, but the case of Jammu and Kashmir was different because of the existence of Article 370 of the Constitution.

He was asked whether Democratic Socialist Front leader H. N. Bahuguna had discussed any common approach by the Opposition parties at his recent meeting with him here.

Sheikh Abdullah replied that Mr Bahuguna had given him his assessment of the political situation in the country.

The Sheikh complained that the Centre was not providing enough funds for implementation of plan programme. It had sanctioned only Rs 900 crores for the State's Sixth Plan against his government's demand of Rs 1,900 crores.

He however, added that whether or not the Centre gave adequate funds the people of Kashmir had chosen the path of progress and development and would march forward.

He observed that things might not remain as they were and might change for the better.

CSO: 4220/7181

CONGRESS-I WINS GUJARAT RAJYA SABHA ELECTION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Gandhinagar, July 9.

All the three Congress(I) candidates were elected to the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat today, giving the ruling party a crucial one-member majority in the upper house.

The successful Congress (I) candidates included the Union commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Mr. Harisinh Mahida, who was elected for the second straight term, and Mr. Kishor C. Mehta.

The combined opposition-sponsored candidate, Mr. Viren Shah, failed to secure the required number of 45 votes.

The voting pattern went on strictly on party lines with all the 144 members of the Congress (I) in the state assembly casting their votes in favour of the three party candidates and all the 33 votes of the combined opposition going to Mr. Shah. Two opposition members could not cast their votes. Not a single vote was declared invalid.

While Mr. Mukherjee secured the highest number of 51 votes, Mr. Mahida got 48, Mr. Mehta 45 and Mr. Shah 33.

In a most bitterly fought biennial election to the Rajya Sabha, the Congress (I), by winning all the three seats from the state, will now have 121 members against the combined opposition strength of 120 in the house having an effective strength of 241 members with three seats vacant, according to Mr. Mukherjee, who is also the leader of the Rajya Sabha.

As soon as the results were announced, the successful ruling party candidates were hugged by the jubilant party supporters. They were also congratulated by the chief minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, and other senior party leaders, including Mr. Ratubhai Adani, and Mr. Jinabhai Darji.

The elections were held to fill the vacancies caused by the retirement of Mr. Shah and Mr. Ramlal Parikh, both Janata, and Mr. Mahida.

War of Nerves

The Congress (I), which by its sheer numerical strength was certain to make a clean sweep, further brightened its prospects when one more Janata member,

Mr. Mohanbhai Desai, representing the Deesa constituency in Banaskantha district, joined the ruling party a few hours before the voting started at noon today. With his joining, the strength of the Congress (I) rose to 144 in the present house of 179 members, while the strength of the Janata declined to 18, the bare minimum it required to maintain its status as the recognised opposition.

The other opposition members include ten of the Bharatiya Janata Party and seven members of the progressive group of independents, including the former chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, president of the state unit of the Lok Dal.

The war of nerves had started about a week ago with both the ruling and the opposition parties trying to engineer cross-voting. The Congress (I) succeeded to bring five. Five opposition members, including three from the Janata and two independents, to its side raising its strength from 139 to 144 within a week. The Janata, however, managed to win back one of its members who had also joined the Congress (I) along with other three.

CSO: 4220/7259

INDEPENDENT WINS IN BENGAL RAJYA SABHA POLL

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Calcutta, July 2--Four CPM and one RSP nominees and a former Calcutta high court chief justice, Mr S. P. Mitra, who ran as an independent, were declared elected to the Rajya Sabha from West Bengal today. A Forward Bloc nominee, also a ruling left front candidate, was defeated.

The five left front winners were: Mr Aurobindo Ghosh, Mr Dwipen Ghosh, Mr Santosh Mitra and Mr Devendranath Burman, all from the CPM and Mr Makhan Paul (RSP).

Mr Aurobindo Ghosh has been a front-ranking trade union leader of state employees and Mr Dwipen Ghosh, Mr Santosh Mitra and Mr Devendranath Burman, all from the CPM and Mr Makhan Paul (RSP).

Mr Aurobindo Ghosh has been a front-ranking trade union leader of state employees and Mr Dwipen Ghosh an active leader of Central government employees. Mr Paul is the RSP state committee secretary.

Mr S. P. Mitra, who got the highest votes, was supported by the Congress(I) and the Janata, among others. After his election, he told newsmen that his election was a fitting reply to Mr Promode Dasgupta and his allies, who, during the last four years, "have ruined West Bengal industrially and economically and is now running the state culturally."

The former chief justice, making his statement from the Congress(I) party office in the assembly, where the elections had been held, said: "I hope this victory will usher in a new era in the history of West Bengal." A newsman asked if he would like to elaborate this part of his statement and whether this indicated a new tactical line of independents confronting the left front in elections with Congress(I) and Janata support. He said, "I do not want to add anything now."

He was also asked if he would maintain his independent status henceforth. Mr S. P. Mitra replied that he would vote on issue-basis "according to my conscience."

Mr Mitra, a barrister, was a member of the late Dr B. C. Roy's cabinet in the mid-fifties, but was defeated by a CPI candidate in the 1957 elections. Thereafter he became a judge of the high court, and retired as chief justice a few years ago.

Mr Bhola Sen expressed his satisfaction over the free and fair elections, which "has proved our majority support," and said his party would henceforth join all legislature committee proceedings, which they had boycotted during the last session.

The results of the election caused considerable excitement in the state in view of the conspicuous back-stage goings-on. The Forward Bloc candidate, Mr Ramakrishna Mazumdar, the Front's sixth candidate, could be assured of not more than 29 first preference votes, and the party as well as the front had spared no pains to win more support from the Congress(I) and Janata ranks to defeat Mr S. P. Mitra. This apparently wielded some result but not enough to ensure Mr Mazumdar's victory against Mr Mitra.

Of the 294 members in the legislature, 288 voted. One vote, cast in favour of Mr Mazumdar was cancelled. The left front candidates likewise appeared to have got the support of the lone CPI(ML) member and two CPM dissidents.

The left-front chairman Mr Promode Dasgupta's only comment on the Rajya Sabha election results was it was clear that all those who were rabid anti-left ultimately veered round the Congress(I) and he would not like to cite BJP or Janata as exceptions to this general pattern of voting as reflected in today's poll.

CSO: 4220/7176

BENGAL CONGRESS-I PLANS TO FORESTALL RIGGING

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Jul 81 p 9

[Text]

THE West Bengal Congress (I) will invite 15 Opposition parties, including Janata, Congress (U), Bharatiya Janata Party, Muslim League and the Socialist Unity Centre to discuss at a meeting ways of forestalling "systematic rigging planned by the Left Front and its allies in connivance with electoral officers" in the Assembly elections next year.

The State Congress (I) president, Mr Ajit Panja, said on Thursday that he had made certain complaints regarding the preparation of draft electoral rolls to the State's Chief Electoral Officer, Mr Krishnamurthy, at a meeting at Writers Building on Wednesday.

Almost daily since June 30, Mr Panja said, his office had been re-

ceiving notices from the electoral offices in the districts for meetings of all political parties for an intensive house-to-house revision of electoral rolls and location of booths. These were timed in such a way as to make it difficult for district leaders to attend these meetings. Formerly, a clear margin of a fortnight was given between the date of the receipt of notices and attendance at meetings. Now only a few days were given.

Mr Panja said that he had requested the CEO to call a meeting of all political parties after the publication of the draft electoral roll scheduled on September 7 and arrange for a sample survey by members of all political parties to check the omission of genuine and inclusion of false voters.

CSO: 4220/7262

DACCA ASKED TO STOP CHAKMA MIGRATION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, July 2--India has asked Bangladesh to stop the migration of its Chakma tribals from the Chittagong hill tracts into Tripura and Mizoram.

The Indian high commissioner in Dacca, Mr M. Dubey, has taken up the matter with the Bangladesh foreign office.

Since June 25 some 2,000 tribals, mostly women and children, have been forced to cross into India as a result of the operations launched in the Chittagong hill tracts by the Bangladesh army.

The military operation has resulted in the killing of several people and destruction of several villages in the vicinity of Banrai Bari, Belchari, Magh Mhuw and Bel Toli. A large section of the population in these tracts is Buddhist.

The Tripura government has made temporary arrangements to provide relief to the tribals who have escaped.

In 1978, some 4,000 tribals crossed into India in the wake of a similar operation by the Bangladesh forces. Such operations, whatever be the motivation, facilitate the grabbing of lands by non-tribals. The current operation may have been undertaken on the pretext of the recent upheaval in that country.

If the Bangladesh authorities do not take measures to stop this forced integration of tribals, 2,000 more people are expected to cross into India in the next few days.

The Prime Minister, Mrs Indra Gandhi, also expressed concern over this influx of tribals into Tripura when the chief minister of Tripura, Mr Nripen Chakraborty, met her here recently.

CSO: 4220/7176

MAHARASHTRA SEEKING LOAN FROM WORLD BANK

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jul 81 p 4

[Text] Bombay, July 2. The Maharashtra government has decided to seek maximum assistance from the World Bank for 19 new irrigation projects in the state.

All the 19 projects are estimated to cost about Rs 737 crores. The aid now sought is in addition to the World Bank assistance of Rs 63 crores already received for Jayakwadi and Purna projects and a total of Rs 223 crores approved for six large projects and renovation of two existing projects.

The new projects are on the anvil following the settlement of all river water disputes between Maharashtra and the neighbouring states, and the consequential increase in the overall irrigation potential in the state.

Approximately 19.50 million hectares of land is under cultivation in Maharashtra, and the commission on water resources in 1960 had placed the optimum irrigation potential in the state at 70.61 lakh hectares. As a result of the settlement of water disputes with the neighbouring states, the potential has increased substantially, a government spokesman told this reporter.

The government had set a target of 105,000 hectares to be brought under irrigation during the year ended June 30, 1981, and a further 115,000 hectares during the year 1981-82, increasing the total area under all types of irrigation to well over 3.6 million hectares.

The area under irrigation will enlarge to about five million hectares during the current plan period. The budget provision for the year 1981-82 towards achieving the target amounts to Rs 234.27 crores, including Rs 176.22 crores on large and medium projects, Rs 16.64 crores for small projects in the state sector, Rs 8 crores for lift irrigation. The figure includes non-plan expenditure of Rs 2.56 crores.

Small projects of purely local utility at village level and a part of expenditure on labour for the bigger projects are financed through the employment guarantee scheme. A total amount of Rs 73.35 crores was spent from the EGS on this count during the two-year period till March 1981.

CSO: 4220/7176

BAHUGUNA REPORTS ON DSF COUNCIL MEETING

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jul 81 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, July 2: The Democratic Socialist Front, led by Mr H. N. Bahuguna, has called for observance of July 20 as "save democracy day" with mass rallies and other demonstrations.

The national council of the front, which just concluded its two-day session, further decided to organise a protest march on August 9 in the context of the findings of the election commission on the Garhwal parliamentary by-election.

The council discussed at length what it described as "blatant rigging" in the constituency and noted that the Congress(I) governments at the Centre and the states were "subverting constitutional institutions--judicial, administrative and electoral."

Evil Portend

In a separate resolution on the Garhwal by-election, where Mr Bahuguna was a candidate, the national council said what happened there "portends ill for parliamentary democracy based on free and fair poll." It called upon all parties and elements believing in democracy to launch united action "to thwart the conspiracies of the authoritarian forces before they put the country to ransom by destroying free and fair elections."

It congratulated the left front government of West Bengal for "successfully resisting the Congress(I) onslaught."

Another resolution spoke of alarming dimensions of the political, economic and social crisis and reminded all democratic parties of their responsibility to come together "to fight the fascist menace."

CSO: 4220/7176

MIZORAM CHIEF MINISTER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jul 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, July 2 (UNI)—Mizoram chief minister, Brig. T. Sailo, said here today that the Mizo National Front (MNF) should surrender their arms before any agreement reached with them is implemented.

He told newsmen that the MNF was violating the "ceasefire" and they were engaged in terrorist activities.

Brig. Sailo, who apprised the prime minister of the situation in Mizoram, said it was time that a settlement was reached between the government of India and Mr Laldenga's MNF. The peace talks had already taken one and a half years and the MNF's delaying tactics must stop, he said.

Commenting on the demand for a greater Mizoram, he said it should not be achieved through arms. If there was a consensus through peaceful talks, it was welcome, he said.

Speaking of violations of the "cease-fire" agreement between the MNF and the Central government of July 31, 1980, he said the affected people did not come forward with complaints fearing further atrocities by the MNF.

He said the MNF was still collecting taxes under duress on a large scale. Their workers entered even the secretariat on pay days and collected two per cent of the employees' salary as tax.

The MNF had established a parallel government in Mizoram and their men had their infiltrating the territory with arms.

On April 14 this year, Aizawl's underground town commander gave a warning to additional district magistrate, Mr Rakesh Behari, not to impose fines or persons who had stood sureties for MNF persons released on bail.

He also narrated several instances of killings by the MNF and threatening of the Central Reserve Police personnel with Chinese-made handgrenades.

He said Mr Robert Lalchhuana, editor of the daily newspaper ROMEI was mercilessly beaten up by MNF men on April 25 this year for adversely commenting on the MNF demand for a "greater Mizoram."

He said the security forces and the Mizoram police had been exercising the utmost restraint to preserve the peaceful atmosphere necessary for a successful dialogue.

GENERAL SECRETARY SAYS JANATA WANTS POLL REFORMS

Madras THE HINDU in English 21 Jun 81 p 3

[Text]

NEW DELHI

Mr. Ravindra Varma, MP and general secretary of the Janata Party, told newsmen here on Friday that his party would soon contact other Opposition parties in an effort to accelerate action on electoral reforms.

He said the "maladies" of the recent by-elections — rigging, booth capturing, low polling, etc. — had made it necessary to accord the highest priority to the reform of the electoral system in the country.

There was already a consensus on certain aspects of electoral reforms and, if the Prime Minister was sincere in her desire for the cooperation of the Opposition, she should take the initiative, Mr. Varma said.

It was of utmost importance to

identify the steps necessary to restore people's confidence in the election machinery, for various maladies had come to light. The worst of them all, he said, was the use of police to rig the polling.

Booth capturing and rigging were done in earlier elections with the help of hired elements, but it was probably the first time that police was used for the purpose, Mr. Varma said.

He thought that the by-election result, obviously not satisfactory to the Opposition, was no reason for the ruling party to feel elated about. "Its victory does not bear the stamp of any exuberant and convincing public support".

CSO: 4220/7082

ELECTION COMMISSION'S ORDER ON GARHWAL REPOLL

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Jun 81 p 7

[Text] The following is the text of the Election Commission's order on repoll in the Garhwal constituency!

The byelection in this constituency which had become necessary on account of the resignation of Mr H. N. Bahuguna on 19-5-1980 was ordered by the commission with the date of poll on 14 June 1981.

After the poll was over, Mr Bahuguna made complaints in writing about the capturing of booths on a wide scale. He gave specific instances. He also came to see me on the 16 June in this connection. He further stated that the police forces from the States of Haryana and other neighbouring States had been inducted in the constituency and they had spread terror. I immediately called for a report from the Government of the Uttar Pradesh and wanted to know why the commission had not been informed of the induction of these police forces from outside the State and the circumstances in which it was done. To this day there has been no reply to this.

On the day of the poll and immediately thereafter, Mr Bahuguna and his representatives have lodged a number of complaints with the R.O., AROs, observers, sector magistrates and the commission about the alleged booth capturing resorted to by the Congress-I workers with the connivance of the local administration and the police force. About 56 specific cases of booth capturing have been furnished by Mr Bahuguna with full details in his representation dated 15 June 1981 and presented to the commission on the 16 June, 1981.

Immediately I sent a team of officers headed by the secretary of the commission, Mr K. Ganesan, to investigate the matter both at Pauri and Dehra Dun where the election records of 4 out of 5 Assembly segments of the Parliamentary constituency are stored.

Detailed Report

The secretary of the commission, after investigations, gave a detailed report to the commission. This detailed report referred to booth capturing as established based on contemporaneous documentary evidence, lie presiding officers' diaries, their independent reports, sector magistrates' reports, reports of the observers, the R.O. and the A.R.Os.

There are also complaints received from the Congress-I in respect of the Badri-Kedar Assembly segment specifying the places where the alleged booth capturing by Mr Bahuguna's supporters had taken place. These complaints were, however, received in the commission on 17 June, 1981 after the commission's team had left for Pauri, and by the R.O. on 16 June, 1981. There were further complaints from this party which were received on the 18 June 1981 but which had been earlier lodged with the R.O. alleging attacks made on the Congress-I workers by the workers of Mr Bahuguna's party. It was not, therefore, possible to make any investigation by the commission's team into these complaints at Badri-Kedar, which was not visited by the team of the commission. If a detailed enquiry is held now, it will take many days to complete it.

In this connection, it is relevant to mention that when Mr Bahuguna met me on the 16 June, he suggested that the proposed team headed by Mr Ganesan should also visit Gopeshwar where the election records of Badri Kedar have been stored. Immediately I asked the UP Government to place a helicopter at the disposal of the team so that the investigation could be done quickly. Unfortunately, the UP Government did not place the helicopter at the disposal of commission.

Representation

Apart from the representatives of the Congress-I who met the commission's team at Dehradun, the other representatives, namely Mr Darbara Singh, Mr Buta Singh, Mr C P N Singh, Mr Rajesh Pilot Mr Karuppia Moopnar and others met me on 19 and 20 June, 1981 and made a representation to the effect that there is at present a 'surcharged atmosphere of class war in the constituency with the result that any repoll now in the constituency would be vitiated.' The Government of the UP has also informed me that the present law and order situation is very tense and violence cannot be ruled out if a repoll is held now.

Apart from the findings of the team regarding booth capturing, the report of the team also discloses the surcharged atmosphere in the constituency immediately before the date of poll and on the day of poll by the presence of the Haryana police on a large scale.

The R.O. of the constituency who is the D.M. Pauri-Garhwal district has stated in the report to the commission that he had not made any request for the Haryana and Punjab police being posted during the election to Garhwal district and confirmed that their deployment in the district of Pauri-Garhwal was not made by him.

From the report of the commission's team and the DM of Pauri-Garhwal, it is quite evident that the Haryana police had been deployed in the constituency on a large scale. The commission, which is vested with the superintendence, direction and control of the elections, has not even been informed of the deployment of the police force from outside and the presence of outside force has naturally vitiated the free and fair conduct of the poll in the constituency.

Serious Matter

I consider that induction of the police forces from outside the State without the knowledge and approval of the commission is a serious matter and has interfered with the conduct of free and fair poll. There should not only be free and fair poll but it must appear to be so.

The present state of affairs is not conducive to holding a repoll of selected booths only. There is need that the outside State forces must first be withdrawn, and normal peace and law and order must be restored, before any repoll, selective or total is held.

Having regard to the above circumstances, I feel that the repoll in the entire Parliamentary constituency would be justified and that this repoll should be conducted without any intervention of the outside forces and under the closer superintendence, direction and control of the Election Commission.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred on the commission under Article 324 of the Constitution, Section 58 of the R.P. Act, 1951 and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, I hereby declare the poll taken on the 14 June, 1981 at all the polling stations in the Garhwal parliamentary constituency to be void. A fresh poll shall be taken at all the polling stations in the constituency for which the commission would, after taking into account all the relevant facts and circumstances, fix a suitable programme.

Sd/-

(S. L. Shakdher)

Chief Election Commissioner of India

New Delhi

20 June, '81

CSO: 4220/7084

WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER REVIEWS PROGRESS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Jun 81 Supplement pp 1, 2

[Article by Sumanta Sen: "People's Movement Main Task, Says Jyoti Basu"]

[Text]

AFTER being in office for four years the Chief Minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, looks back at his Ministry's performance with mixed feelings. There has been progress in some fields but the pace has been rather slow. In the urban areas particularly the impact of the change from the old and "undesirable" style of functioning is yet to be properly felt. In an interview, Mr Basu admitted this but pointed to the several, and often "severe", constraints that have stood in the way of the Left Front Ministry providing people with a cleaner and more efficient form of administration.

But the Chief Minister was happy with developments in the rural areas. "We have taken land reforms seriously and our various measures have given the weaker sections in the villages a sense of confidence that they never enjoyed before". The "Operation Barga" aimed at securing the rights of sharecroppers, vesting panchayats with greater authority and ensuring the minimum wage for landless labourers were some of the steps to which he looked with pride as being in the right direction.

The Left Front Ministry has been laying particular stress on the rural areas and with good reason. The aim has been to gain, through development work, the same degree of organizational strength among the poor and middle farmers as it enjoys in the industrial areas. As Mr Basu said, "politically we cannot dream of going ahead without a strong peasant movement. It is because we have made some head-

way in that direction that the vested interests, led principally by the Congress(I), are out to get us ousted from power".

Apprehension

For the past one year, the Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues have repeatedly expressed the fear that the Ministry in West Bengal would be dismissed by the Centre. Asked whether such public expressions of fear did not make the administration nervous, Mr Basu replied: "Some weak officers might have been affected but politically we have to make people conscious of the danger that authoritarianism poses. This has also become imperative when we found the Prime Minister making no effort to restrain her colleagues in the party and the Government who demanded our dismissal". He felt the Prime Minister would have dismissed the Ministry by now. "If we did not enjoy such overwhelming support among the people".

The Chief Minister seemed unhappy over the functioning of the Small Industries Department, which is also looked after by a Minister belonging to the CPI(M). He agreed that facilities received by small entrepreneurs in other States, were lacking in West Bengal. He had instructed the Minister concerned to look into the genuine grievances and added, "I have decided to hold periodic meetings with new entrepreneurs to help them set up in industries in the State". Mr Basu felt it was regrettable that even after

four years of the Left Front Ministry, people still had to run from pillar to post to set up a small unit here.

The Chief Minister mentioned a particular problem which industrialists faced in West Bengal. "Whenever a new unit is set up, there are demands that recruitment should be only from local people and not through the employment exchanges". He gave the instances of a multinational company and a West German firm which had become shy of investing at Haldia and Kalyani, respectively after their representatives were threatened with dire consequences by local people. "In both cases we acted firmly and sent the police to deal with the people as they were in the wrong", he said, adding that "unfortunately sometimes even our own comrades get involved in such wrongful actions".

For quite some time there has been criticism from certain quarters that the CPI(M) in particular was following a path of compromise with industrialists in order to remain in office in West Bengal. Asked about this Mr Basu said:

"We have never compromised on principle, nor for a moment have we allowed the interests of the workers to suffer. But we are helpless if we are criticized for holding dialogues with industrialists, trying to understand their problems and settle them. We have to do this as in the existing set-up the private sector is a reality and how can we ignore it?"

A major obstacle to the setting up of big industries in West Bengal is, according to the Chief Minister, the fact that all important credit institutions have their headquarters in Bombay and the regional offices in Calcutta do not enjoy sufficient authority. "We have repeatedly asked for a rectification of this situation but to no avail." Coupled with this was the "inefficiency and lack of enthusiasm in the department concerned of the State Government."

On the question of bureaucratic inefficiency, Mr Basu said there were many in the administration who suffered from a lack of motivation and "preferred to stick to the old ways." He felt individual Ministers should be particularly aware of this situation and not depend too much on such sections of the bureaucracy.

Education is a department which Mr Basu feels has done a good job during the last four years. "Our major achievement has been the regular holding of examinations and elimination of mass copying which had vitiated the academic atmosphere in the State before we came into office." He also referred to the fact that education had been made free up to the secondary stage and the distribution of free text books as steps which have helped the weaker sections of the community.

Asked about the controversy on the language issue Mr Basu replied: "Our opponents have been rejected by the people."

An important charge against the Left Front Ministry is its failure to deal with rising prices. While a permanent solution to the problem of price rise rests solely with the Centre, the Left Front has been accused of not taking even those steps which could curb profiteering to some extent. To this, Mr Basu replied: "The Central laws are not sufficiently stringent". However, he admitted that organizationally his party had not been able to build up an anti-price rise movement as in Maharashtra.

Has the party become soft after being in office for four years? Have the various lures of office affected the members of the CPI(M)? Mr Basu said: "We are aware of the dangers that a Marxist party faces when it assumes power in a bourgeois society and we keep a close watch on our members, periodically review their actions, educate them about the tasks ahead and the sacrifices that need to be made. Our purpose can never be merely to return to power every five years. Our principal task is to build up a people's movement, to change the existing society in India. The going so far has been slow but we have never lost sight of our target."

While the "target" is still far away, Mr Basu felt the working of the Left Front had made some impact on the rest of the country; "some of the good work that we have done has generated enthusiasm in other States and when we visit these places the people want to know more from us."

One of the first demands raised by the Left Front was that the States should enjoy greater fiscal authority and "today many other States privately agree with us. In public, however, they have to adopt a different posture as they cannot afford to antagonize the Centre." What was important, he felt, was that "we have at least been able to make others realize that our demand is just."

CSO: 4220/7077

NEW CABINET FOR MANIPUR, PRESIDENT'S RULE ENDS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Jun 81 p 1

[Text]

IMPHAL, June 19.—Mr Rishang Keishing, leader of the Congress (I) Legislature Party, was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Manipur here this afternoon bringing to an end the 112-day-old President's rule in the State, reports PTI.

The Manipur Governor, Mr L. P. Singh administered the oath of office and secrecy to all other members of the eight-member Ministry—seven Cabinet and one State—at a ceremony at Raj Bhavan.

The new Cabinet Ministers, who have been sworn in are Mr Ngurdienlien, former Agriculture Minister, Mr Devendra Singh, former Education Minister, Mr K. Radhabinod Singh, former Public Health Engineering Minister, Mr Healsaluddin, former Medical Minister, Mr Chaoba Singh, former Industries Minister and Mr Holkhomang, former Vice-Chairman of State Planning.

The former Deputy Speaker, Mr H. Lokhon Singh was sworn in as Minister of State.

Mr Keishing said later that his Ministry would be expanded "soon". The budget session of the Assembly will begin on July 6.

This is the third Ministry since the last general election in the State. President's rule, imposed on February 28, was revoked by a proclamation of the President earlier in the day.

The State was brought under President's rule and the Assembly kept under suspended animation on the recommendation of Mr Keishing as the Chief Minister who resigned after his Ministry was reduced to a minority when 11 Congress (I) members had crossed the floor on February 23 and joined the PDF. The PDF then had a

strength of 31 members in the 60-member House.

Mr Keishing had thus side-stepped a no-confidence motion, moved against him by the PDF leader, Mr Chaoba.

The PDF leader had claimed the support of 31 members and urged the Governor, Mr L. P. Singh, on three occasions to invite him to form a Ministry. However, the support of 31 members was considered as "not a comfortable majority" in the House by the Governor.

On May 17, the Congress (I) claimed that it had regained its majority as seven PDF members had re-defected to their party raising its strength to 33.

Mr Keishing was earlier sworn in as Chief Minister on December 13 following the resignation of Mr R. K. Dorendra Singh.

Mr Singh, who formed the Ministry after the last general election is now in Delhi and likely to be appointed as general secretary of the All India Congress (I) Committee, a party source said.

Our Special Representative in Delhi adds: Mr Ravindra Verma, M.P., general secretary of the Janata Party, today reacted strongly to the Manipur Governor, Mr L. P. Singh, inviting Mr Keishing to form the Ministry. "This was an invitation to instability in a strategic area of the country", he said. Mr Keishing's claim that he had the support of 33 members in a House of 60 was doubtful.

BANGLADESH ENCLAVE CENSUS OPERATIONS PROTESTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Jul 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] Calcutta, July 6--Police opened fire today on a crowd of demonstrators in the Tinbigha area of Coochbehar district as a result of which four persons were seriously injured. Section 144, Cr P C was clamped in the area.

The Forward Bloc leaders, Mr Amar Roy Prodhan, MP and Sada Kanto Roy, MLA, were among arrested.

West Bengal Government's Chief Secretary A K Sen told newsmen that earlier two police inspectors were injured when the violent crowd attacked the police with bows and arrows.

The demonstration was staged in protest against attempted census operation at the Bangladesh enclaves Dahagram and Angarpota by a team of Bangladesh census personnel.

Mr Sen said that the whole thing had been reported to the Union Home Ministry.

He said the Bangladesh Government had asked the West Bengal Government for safe passage of the census personnel to Dahagram via Tinbigha. The operation had earlier been fixed for 4 March. It was postponed later because of opposition of the local people.

Chief Minister Jyoti Basu had gone to Coochbehar to persuade the local leaders to desist from any demonstration against the operation.

Escort

The Bangladesh team arrived at Tinbigha today and were escorted by three magistrates and a police contingent led by the DSP, Coochbehar. They had advanced a hundred yards into Dahagram when some people of the Bangladesh territory shouted slogans asking them to 'go back.'

The Bangladesh party thereupon refused to go further and returned to Tinbigha where they were waiting for some reinforcements from their country.

The Chief Secretary said that a similar demonstration was staged on the Indian side by a large crowd. The DC and SP, Coochbehar, tried to persuade the crowd to disperse, but it attacked the police party with bows and arrows. Two police inspectors were injured. The police made lathi-charges, but failed to disperse the crowd. In the firing that followed four persons were injured.

MASS CONVERSION OF HARIJANS UNDER INVESTIGATION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Jul 81 p 4

[Text] The Government is investigating the reported mass conversion of Harijans in the Meenakshipuram village in Tamilnadu to Islam, Union Home Minister Zail Singh announced on Monday.

The Home Minister told the Parliament members consultative committee attached to his Ministry that the Constitution gave every citizen the right to profess, practise and propagate his religion, but forcible conversions would be an abuse of this right.

Mr Zail Singh assured Mr Madhu Dandawate, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee and Mr Niren Ghosh that appropriate action would be taken after enquiry. Some members asked if foreign money was involved.

The members were divided on suggestions that the law and order be made a concurrent subject to instill sense of security and confidence among the minorities.

Mr Niren Ghosh said the Government should nip this trouble in the bud. A probe should be instituted to find out the forces behind this phenomenon. Steps should also be taken to end the age-old repression of Harijans by upper castes, he said.

Mr Ghosh's plea for strong action in this regard was supported by Mr Dandavate and Mr Vajpayee.

At the outset, Mr Ghosh sought to raise a discussion on two other issues not listed on the agenda. One was the propriety of the recent statements made by Minister of State for Home Yogendra Makwana on the untenability of state-level commissions set up by Tamilnadu and Kerala on the spirit scandal in view of the constitution of a Central Commission. The second point related to the deployment of police from a number of States in Garhwal parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh.

On the second issue, Mr Vajpayee and Mr Dandawate also demanded a categorical reply from the Home Minister if the Centre was a party to this, which ultimately attracted the wrath of the Election Commission.

The Home Minister said items outside the agenda could be taken up later. The discussions are scheduled to resume on Tuesday.

CSO: 4220/7204

DELHI CLARIFIES DEFINITION OF 'FOREIGNERS'

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Jul 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, July 6--The Centre today finally came up with the "clarification" as to who it considers to be foreigners in Assam during the 1961-1971 period. The issue has held up the talks with the Assam movement leaders since May when Mr Zail Singh, the Union Home Minister, formulated a three-point plan to move "unauthorized foreigners" out of the State and rehabilitate them elsewhere with attractive incentives.

At a 75-minute official-level meeting, the Additional Law Secretary and senior Home Ministry officials spelt out their definition of the "authorized" and "unauthorized" foreigner. Representatives of the All Assam Students Union and All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad wrote down verbatim what the officials told them.

There had been a week-long stalemate because the Assam delegations had demanded that the Government give them the "clarification" in black and white. The Government side declined to do so, pointing out that no written clarifications were provided in such negotiations. The Assam leaders eventually relented, agreeing to put down in writing the definition given lest a dispute should arise at a future date.

The Government side also furnished the "clarification" on three other points that the Assam movement leaders had asked for: (1) on whom the Government wanted to grant citizenship certificates under Section 5(1)A of the Citizenship Act; (2) on whether or not the incentives for rehabilitation would be given at new sites; and (3) on the validity of resettlement of refugees from Bangladesh in the tribal areas.

Asked whether the "clarification" now given in any way from those given before, Mr Prafulla Mohanta and Mr Bhrigu Phukan said that "clarifications" had not been given by the Government before. Asked if that meant an advance in the talks, they said: "We feel we are now getting something concrete on which we can proceed to ask questions."

Mr Mohanta and Mr Phukan said they would tell the Government side their reaction to the definitions at a meeting to be held tomorrow.

The AASU and AAGSP leaders will have a joint meeting late tonight to make an assessment of the situation on the basis of clarifications given and formulate their response

An official spokesman said later

that clarifications, points and their meanings were discussed in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

The Government has consistently maintained that it could not throw out of the State Hindu refugees who entered the State in the wake of 1965 India-Pakistan war. They had a right to stay since policy instructions had been issued at the time permitting their entry as it was a national commitment, he said.

The agitation leaders have insisted that there was no documentary evidence of such instructions having been given. And if it was a national commitment, the entire nation should bear the burden. Assam had already sheltered 12,000 families in terms of the quotas fixed for the State at that time.

Mr Mohanta and Mr Phukan today issued a statement contending that the cordiality of the talks should not be marred by the Government "unleashing a reign of terror and repression on the people in Sibsagar, Tezpur, Barpeta and other places"

The statement said AASU had kept its movement in abeyance during the pendency of the talks "in good faith". But if the Assam Government "indulges in vitiating this atmosphere, it would only result in queering the pitch for the negotiations". It alleged that "police brutalities" were taking place

in Barpeta and Tezpur. Mr Rupam Kakati, an AASU executive member, and Mr Romu Chaliha, a student leader, had been detained and were being harassed. Another AASU member, Mr Bapdhan Koch of Tezpur, was being "hounded and chased by the police". The Superintendents of Police of Barpeta, Darrang and Lakhimpur districts were harassing and torturing the AASU workers.

UNI adds: Sources in the two delegations said that the Government had only reiterated its position that the Hindu refugees entering the State between 1961 and 1971 could not be disturbed in view of the national commitment towards them, international obligations, the Citizenship Act and the Passport Act. This would amount to the agitating organizations agreeing that the 1.3 million refugees entering Assam, according to the 1971 census, would remain in the State.

Only about 24,000 illegal entrants, again according to the census report, would have to be moved out in terms of the Government proposal to settle outside Assam "unauthorized foreigners" on which the agitation leaders had sought four clarifications.

The agitation leaders said the Government clearly wanted them to accept 1971 as the "cut-off-year" "through the back door"—a position "we will never accept."

CSO: 4220/7200

TAMIL NADU, KERALA HEADS REFUTE DELHI CHARGES

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Jul 81 p 9

[Text]

TRIVADRUM, JULY 6.—The Kerala Chief Minister, Mr E. K. Nayanar, today accused the Centre of "political motives" in appointing the Ray Commission of inquiry into the alleged spirit deal, reports PTI.

Replying to a discussion in the State Assembly, on the State budget he agreed that the Centre had constitutional powers to order an inquiry into matters involving more than one State. But the appointment of a commission after the two States (Kerala and Tamil Nadu) had set up their own commissions was politically motivated.

Kerala had sought the Centre's approval for the appointment of a sitting judge of the High Court as the commission, but it had not replied five weeks. In view of the delay, which was also "politically motivated" the State Government appointed a retired judge, Mr Nayanar said.

Mr Nayanar told the Assembly that he had written to the Prime Minister protesting against certain statements by the Union Minister of State for Home, Mr Yogendra Makwana, on the situation in Kerala which were "against the spirit of the federal set-up".

Mr Nayanar hoped that Mrs Gandhi would "warn" the Minister concerned. He had not yet received a reply to the letter.

He said Mr Makwana's statements, made during his brief visit to Kerala early last month, went against the assurances given by the Prime Minister at the National Development Council meeting that the Centre would not do anything to topple elected State Govern-

ments.

Mr M. G. Ramachandran, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, said today that his Government did not attach "importance" to the view expressed by the Union Minister of State for Home, that the State commissions set up to probe the alleged spirit scandal should be disbanded.

Addressing a Press conference here, he said he had made it clear in Delhi recently after meeting the Prime Minister that the State-appointed Sadastvam Commission would function simultaneously with the Central Ray Commission. There had been no change in this stand.

Mr Ramachandran, however, said the State Government would extend full cooperation to the Central commission. "We will produce all available files and documents".

Mr Ramachandran declared that he would draw the Prime Minister's attention to the "disparaging" remarks made by Mr Makwana against the State Government.

The Chief Minister said Mr Makwana had warned the State Government of "repercussions" but had not spelt them out. He and his Government were prepared to face any "repercussions". It was one thing to advise, but another to "threaten and intimidate", he declared.

CSO: 4220/7200

INDIA

HOME MINISTER DENOUNCES DEMAND FOR KHALISTAN

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Jul 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, July 5 (UNI)--The home minister, Mr Zail Singh, today denounced the demand for Khalistan, saying no secessionist movement would be tolerated.

Presiding over a one-day all-India Sikh intelligentsia convention, he said the demand for Khalistan was "mischievous" and was being propagated by extremists to gain political advantage.

He said the Sikhs were part and parcel of this country and were strongly opposed to the secessionist move.

He appealed to the Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee not to encourage secessionist elements and concentrate on the propagation of Sikh religion and the teachings of Sikh gurus.

Mr Zail Singh said it was unfortunate that the august platform of the SGPC was being misused to encourage such anti-national and ill-intentioned moves.

He said it was also unfortunate that some newspapers had given undue publicity to the demand for Khalistan. It was said that some newspapers had chosen to carry it on the front page when only about 20 people had taken out a procession in Anandpursahib holding the map of 'Khalistan.'

Such dangerous movements should not be encouraged, he said.

Mr Zail Singh appealed to the Sikhs to organise state conventions to educate the people on the dangers posed by secessionist movements.

He said the Sikhs were against the two-nation theory because they were against theocratic states.

CSO: 4220/7199

PLANNING COMMISSION URGES REDUCED SUBSIDIES

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Jul 81 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 8

Proposals to effect a substantial reduction in subsidies under different heads accounting for an estimated budget expenditure of Rs 2,003 crores during 1981-82 are part of the comprehensive anti-inflationary package being finalised by the Union Finance Ministry.

The subsidy on fertilizers, accounting for the major share of Rs 679 crores, is getting some special attention and may be cut down to Rs 486 crores if the Planning Commission's suggestion is accepted. But this will necessitate an increase in the price of imported fertilizer.

The size of the fertilizer subsidy is getting a second look in view of the imperative need now being felt to contain governmental expenditure.

Mr R. Venkateswaram, Finance Minister, while presenting the 1981-82 budget, had announced that he was stepping up the subsidy on fertilizer from Rs 486 crores last year to Rs 679 crores on account of the increase in the cost of imported fertilizer.

The situation remains unchanged and should, therefore, leave no room for any reduction in the size of the subsidy.

The Planning Commission, however, urged that the price

of imported fertilizer should be increased so that the subsidy could be maintained at the 1980-81 level.

Review of all: The Planning Commission has urged that the Government should take a fresh look at the possibilities of cutting down on all subsidies.

The subsidies have increased from Rs 470 crores in 1975-76 to Rs 1,880 crores in 1979-80. The revised estimates for subsidies in 1980-81 are Rs 1,784 crores but the actual figures should be substantially higher than in 1979-80.

The commission has expressed the fear that unless the Government makes a determined effort to slash down the expenditure on subsidies, it will not be able to achieve its targeted reduction of Rs 3,250 crores during the Sixth Plan period.

The commission has drawn the Government's attention to the fact that the burden on the Central exchequer on account of subsidies would be Rs 12,400 crores during the Sixth Plan. And, notwithstanding its claims that it has made determined efforts to raise additional resources, a lot more requires to be done in the near future.

The strategy to be followed for achieving a reduction in the fertilizer subsidy is so engaging the Government's attention. Since the average cost of production of fertilizer is going up, there is a case for increasing the price through a series of steps, at a rate somewhat higher than the cost of production. But over a few years, the subsidy will have to be eliminated and fertilizer

marketed at an economic price.

Nevertheless, it would still be necessary to follow a discriminatory policy to ensure that marginal farmers are given a rate of subsidy under the integrated rural development programme. This would ensure that the subsidy accrues to the targeted vulnerable groups.

The other subsidies under the Government's scrutiny are (figures in brackets indicate the estimated expenditure to be incurred in 1981-82): food subsidy (Rs 680 crores), controlled cloth (Rs 78 crores), assistance for export promotion and market development (Rs 405 crores), Railways (Rs 71 crores), Coal -dis (Rs 53 crores), new industrial units in backward areas (Rs 20 crores), shipping development fund committee (Rs 28 crores) and subsidy to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (Rs 21 crores).

Constraints: The proposals in respect of reduction of subsidies forming part of the anti-inflationary package have, however, had to take note of certain constraints—the cost incurred in the maintenance of buffer stocks, increases in the procurement prices of foodgrains without a corresponding increase in issue prices, the cost of both domestic and imported fertilizer and increasing assistance for export promotion and market development.

The commitments in respect of the cost of controlled cloth have also had to be kept in mind.

CSO: 4220/7255

PLANNING COMMISSION, OTHER APPOINTMENTS NOTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Jul 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi July 1--A former member of the Planning Commission, Prof Sukumoy Chakravarty, is being reappointed a member of the Commission.

This appointment is being made as part of the Government's desire to strengthen the Planning Commission.

The Government has also decided to appoint Mr M. Narasimham, who is at present India's Executive Director on the International Fund, as Finance Secretary in place of Mr G. Ramachandran, who is joining the Asian Development Bank.

As Finance Secretary, Mr Narasimham will be in overall charge of the Finance Ministry functioning as the senior-most of the three Secretaries dealing with revenue, expenditure and economic affairs including international finance.

Mr N. Narasimham will relieve Mr V. B. Eswaran of the additional charge.

The following other changes have also been made:

Mr Abid Hussain, on reversion from ESCAP, becomes Secretary, Department of Heavy Industry, Mr K. S. Rajan, who was holding additional charge of this department, will become Secretary, Technical Development, getting extension up to April 30 next year.

Mr S. P. Mukerjee, Additional Secretary, Agriculture and Cooperation is upgraded as secretary in place of Mr S. S. Puri, who has been designated as Indian Ambassador to EEC. Mr T. R. Satischandran, Officer on Special Duty in Cabinet Secretariat becomes Secretary, Coordination, in it.

Mr S. S. Sidhu, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Rural Reconstruction, is the new Secretary for Health and Family Planning. He succeeds Mr Kerpa Narain.

CSO: 7174

FERTILIZER COOPERATIVE HEAD TALKS TO NEWSMEN

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Jul 81 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 1

Pullman Kellogg of US and Haldor Topsøe of Denmark, whose choice as consultants for the Hazira and Thel Vaisnet fertilizer projects respectively had earlier sparked a big furor, have again been chosen as suppliers of technology for the Ammonia plants of the new fertilizer project to be based on the Bombay High offshore gas, and to be set up by the Indian Farmers' Fertilizers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) at an estimated cost of Rs 500—Rs 700 crores.

The consultants for the urea plant will be Snam Progetti of Italy. The location of the project is yet to be decided but it is likely to be in UP or Madhya Pradesh or Rajasthan. It is expected to be commissioned in 1985.

This was disclosed here by Mr LR Tahwar, Managing Director of IFFCO, at a news conference.

Mr Tahwar, however, said no agreement with these firms had been signed, since a decision had been taken by the Government of India that in future, all technology transfers to Indian fertilizer projects in respect of ammonia and urea should be from these three companies.

The authorities might not float any global tenders for submission of bids by a wide range of consultants. But Indian participation in regard to technology would be greater, and there was every likelihood of the FEDO (FACT Engineering and Design Organisation) being associated in a bigger way in the new fertilizer project.

In reply to repeated questions on the choice of the foreign companies, he said it was the decision of the Government.

Joint venture in Senegal

Mr Tahwar further said IFFCO would participate in a joint venture in Senegal for setting up a fertilizer project,

estimated to cost \$300 millions (about Rs 240 crores). The total Indian share capital in the project would be about Rs 177 crores in cash out of which IFFCO's share would be Rs 8 crores.

The project is for the production of phosphoric acid and solid phosphatic fertilizers based on rock phosphate available in Senegal. The benefit to India from the project would be that it would get assured supply of 110 lakh tonnes of phosphorous pentoxide every year at international prices.

Mr Tahwar said IFFCO's Phulphur ammonia urea complex, built at a cost of Rs 205 crores, had achieved the rated capacity of ammonia production within three weeks of its starting operations after naphtha supplies were resumed.

Kandla plant

The Kandla expansion scheme of IFFCO went on stream on June 4, a month ahead of schedule. The capacity of Kandla plant, with the commissioning of the expansion scheme, had increased to one million tonnes a year.

The malathion plant at Kalol, with an annual capacity of 500 tonnes technical grade malathion, had also gone into production during 1980-81. The Kalol unit produced 2.77 lakh tonnes of ammonia and 3.17 lakh tonnes of urea attaining capacity utilisation of 92 per cent and 80 per cent respectively. This was the highest level of ammonia production achieved by IFFCO in a year.

During 1981-82, IFFCO's total production was expected to be 7.6 lakh tonnes, of urea and 8.5 lakh tonnes of nitrogenous phosphatic and potassic fertilizers. This would represent an increase of 53 per cent over 1980-81. IFFCO's net profits for 1980-81 were likely to be Rs 14.5 crores. It had made a total profit of Rs 134.34 crores in six years.

BENGAL SAID TO FEAR TROUBLE FROM JHARKHAND ELEMENTS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Jul 81 p 3

[Text]

THE West Bengal Government was fearing trouble from the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and the Jharkhand Party during the coming sowing season, especially in Bankura and Purulia districts, it was learnt from official sources in Calcutta on Thursday. The matter was discussed at the meeting held with district authorities at Writers Building earlier in the week. District officials were told to be alert.

The sources said that the Jharkhand elements had created trouble at a number of places during the last harvesting season. Their tactics were to muster some people and start a disturbance. What was worrying the State Government was that the Jharkhand supporters, in most cases, carried traditional arms. Disputes during the sowing season could quickly turn into law and order problems.

The Jharkhand elements were trying to infiltrate into West Bengal, especially at Santaldih in Purulia, the sources added. Recently they held a meeting at Purulia and tried to organize contractors' labourers at Santaldih. It is said that the Jharkhand supporters generally intervene in support of landowners, both tribal and non-tribal, and often work against tribal landless labourers.

The leadership of both the Jharkhand Party and the Mukti Morcha is said to consist of non-tribals, who often work in close alliance with landlords. According to official reports three leaders of the Jharkhand Party, none of whom was a tribal, recently stayed in the house of a landlord at a village in Arambagh, Hooghly, and discussed with him a programme for meetings in Purulia and Midnapore. The landlord reportedly made arrangements for the supply of seven trucks, a bus, three

jeeps, and a car to carry party supporters to the meetings.

According to the reports, some workers of a krishak samity, who had recently assembled at Simlapal for restoration of jungle plots to tribals, were allegedly attacked by supporters of the Morcha. The sources said Jharkhand elements were trying to thwart attempts by the State Government to restore land, alienated earlier from tribals, to them. For, it is believed, the elements thrive on the discontent of tribals. If land were restored to the tribals, the Jharkhand elements would lose their support.

It is also alleged that some leaders are falling prey to criminals of Purulia and Bankura and getting involved in illegal mining and coal smuggling, specially in the Raghunathpur, Neturia, Satori and Cossipore areas of Purulia. They are also reportedly organizing "social trials" of villagers often. Recently, it is alleged, some of them intervened in personal disputes of a majhi family, held one of them guilty, imposed on him a fine of one mound of rice and a lamb and enjoyed the food.

The State Government is trying to counter the influence of the Jharkhand supporters by settling the genuine grievances of tribals. One of them is to expedite redistribution of land. The State Government will soon issue circulars to the Forest Department to implement quickly schemes on use of forest wealth by tribals. It is believed that some officers of the Forest Department are not co-operating in efforts to implement the welfare measures for tribals. To make available to tribals benefits of employment exchanges, the State Government has recently introduced a mobile employment exchange unit for the tribals of Bankura. The unit has already registered a few hundred names in five blocks.

STATES' ADMINISTRATION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCORED

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Jul 81 p 10

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 1

The Planning Commission has pointed out that for the successful implementation of the integrated rural development programme the State Governments should decentralise the planning process and make available to the district level authorities funds for the development of infrastructure based on local needs.

The Commission has drawn the States' attention to providing specific assistance under the IRDP to 3,000 families in each block on an average during the Sixth Plan.

"These households", says the Commission, "cannot be viable unless they are linked with other ongoing activities and necessary infrastructural support is provided for the supply of raw materials, marketing, technical supervision, etc. However, this aspect, i.e., management input is completely missing."

According to the guidelines issued by the Planning Commission on block level planning the State Governments should set apart 10 per cent of the divisible outlays of the State plans for local level planning. "Except Maharashtra and Gujarat, no other State has implemented this suggestion," the commission says.

The Commission has said that the extent of decentralisation of planning achieved in the States should also be a factor for finalising the quantum of Central assistance to the States.

The Commission has also referred to the lack of clarity among the States and other agencies of IRDP in the selection of prospective beneficiaries and on assisting the "poorest of the poor."

One view is that the poorest of the poor are not really credit-worthy and they would require substantial

assistance to enable them to cross the poverty line.

It is feared that if this criterion is adopted rigidly, the programme will not succeed.

"If necessary, beneficiaries may be selected from among small farmers, marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans, etc."

While adoption of this approach would certainly ensure availability of bank credit and to that extent, the objective of the programme will be achieved, it would imply that the beneficiaries will not necessarily be from amongst the poorest of the poor. This will call for a modification in the approach spelt out in the plan.

Criterion for identification

Originally the criterion for identification of the beneficiaries was entirely land-based. In the case of agricultural labour, it was stipulated that the off-farm income of the beneficiary should not exceed Rs 2,400 per year. But now IRDP is not confined to land-based activities. Any family belonging to the weaker sections is entitled to be assisted under this programme. The criterion of land-holding is therefore no longer valid.

Under the income-based criterion since adopted, a family with an annual income of Rs 3,500 can be considered for assistance.

"It is envisaged", says the Commission, "that income would be assessed through comprehensive household surveys for which guidelines have been issued. However, since comprehensive household surveys have not been carried out in all parts of the country the criterion of land-holding is also in vogue."

According to the present definition, a person owning five acres of dry land is treated as a small farmer and a person owning and cultivating 2.5 acres of dry land is considered to be marginal farmer.

"In the areas covered by the Drought-Prone Area Programme (DPAP), higher land ceilings have been prescribed. But in the other areas, the present ceiling of five acres prevails in all parts of the country irrespective of the quality of land. Since agricultural productivity varies widely, a uniform ceiling of five acres is not realistic. Further, the land criterion may not be quite consistent with the income criterion. At the same time in the absence of comprehensive household surveys, land criteria cannot be completely discarded. The issue will have to be gone into in depth."

Priority to minor irrigation

The Commission has stated that "if the principle of selecting the poorest of the poor is adhered to rigidly, farmers who need assistance for minor irrigation would be completely left out and minor irrigation component would be excluded from the programme."

"Having regard to the low level of exploitation of the ground water potential in the country and the contribution that the ground water exploitation can make to stepping up agricultural production, tapping of ground water should be given the highest priority for agricultural development. It is for consideration whether the principle of selecting beneficiaries from amongst the poorest of the poor should be modified for minor irrigation programmes."

The Commission has pointed out that at present subsidy is available only for phosphatic and potassic fertilizers. If the income of the beneficiary should go above the poverty line as a result of investments in agriculture the entire package of inputs will have to be subsidised including seeds, pesticides and nitrogenous fertilizer. The guidelines will have to be suitably modified.

MINISTER REVIEWS RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Jul 81 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI July 2

Unless State Governments send the prescribed reports on the progress and utilisation of funds in respect of ongoing rural development programmes, no further funds will be released by the Centre.

This was indicated after a meeting which the Union Agriculture and Rural Reconstruction Minister, Rao Birendra Singh had with officials of his Ministry to review the implementation of rural development programmes.

The Minister wanted that State Governments should be told in clear terms that they would not get further funds if they failed to send progress reports regularly. He also wanted officials of his Ministry to exercise vigilance and monitor closely the implementation of the programmes and use of funds.

The subjects covered at the review meeting included the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) and development of regulated agricultural

markets in rural areas.

In regard to IRDP, detailed guidelines have been issued to States for preparation of block plans to lift 600 families every year out of poverty line during the next five years. The guidelines envisage eight steps towards preparation of a five-year perspective plan and the annual action plan. The whole process of preparation of the block plan — both the five-year perspective and annual — is expected to be completed in four months.

The step-by-step exercise involves making an inventory of locally available resources, review of on-going economic activities with a view to appraising their relevance in the context of the target groups, preparation of sector-wise plans to form the core of the perspective plan, preparation of credit plan and selection of clusters of villages for coverage.

In regard to regulated markets, the review has shown that the development has not been adequate. It is noted that more than 20 per cent of marketable surplus of food crops is not brought to the markets for disposal. In the case of commercial crops, the position is still worse and more than 50 per cent of cotton and jute does not pass through wholesale markets.

One of the constraints to development of primary markets in rural areas is want of funds. Institutional finance is not available as the rural markets are not considered economically viable. The outlay of Rs 38 crores provided by the Centre is found adequate only for developing 1350 markets at the rate of Rs 1.5 lakhs per market, whereas there are 22,000 primary rural markets in the country.

In this context, a suggestion has been made to the State Governments to prepare integrated projects linking the primary market with the wholesale assembly markets, treating the primary market as a sub-yard of the wholesale market. Such projects, it is felt, will attract institutional finance.

In fact, the Centre has suggested that if such integrated projects for development of regulated markets are formulated by State Governments, they can be put up for World Bank loan.

The Centre also wants States to do away with the institution of commission agents who have a stranglehold of the regulated markets. It is noted that, except Tamil Nadu, all the other States have allowed commission agents to control the markets. This should be remedied, the Centre feels.

CSO: 4220/7180

DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES SET UP

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Jul 81 p 6

[Text] A new, district-level agency, charged with direct responsibility for implementation of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), has come up in practically all the districts in the country in pursuance of a decision taken earlier this year.

Known as the district rural development agency, it is to work under the guidance and supervision of a broad-based committee.

Headed at some places by the divisional commissioners and at others by the district magistrates, all departments of the Government connected with rural development, as well as cooperative societies, panchayat bodies and public men are represented on this committee.

The chief executive of the agency is designated as deputy development commissioner. He has to be an officer of fairly high seniority, from among those about to become district magistrates.

A corresponding agency at the block level is now in the process of being set up.

Union Minister of State for Agriculture Baleshwar Ram, told newsmen in Delhi on Monday that, with such a machinery already created at the district level and in the process at the block level, the stage was now set for speedier implementation of the IRDP.

He said the Government set great store by this programme which aimed directly at lifting more and more families from below the poverty line.

Mr Ram said that during 1980-81, the IRDP had been implemented quite satisfactorily in some States. The same, however, could not be said of all States in this matter.

The worst defaulter, according to him, was West Bengal, only five per cent of the funds marked for IRDP for West Bengal in 1980-81 had actually been spent. All the 5,011 blocks in India stood covered by IRDP by two October last year.

The Minister was hopeful that the scheme of TRYSEM (Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment), in operation since 15, August 1979, would make a valuable contribution as an anti-poverty measure in rural areas.

The 1981-82 target under this scheme is to impart technical and vocational training to two lakh youths from families below poverty line. With financial assistance available for purchase of raw material, it is expected that these youths would be able to make a decent livelihood on a sustained basis. In 1980-81, about 80,000 youths were trained under this scheme.

The Minister said in reply to a question that the Department of Rural Reconstruction was in touch with the State and was urging them to avail of the Central subsidy and build more rural godowns.

The rural godowns scheme, launched in 1979-80 aims at augmenting storage capacity in rural areas, so that post-harvest losses are minimised and farmers are saved from making distress sale of the produce (the godowns can advance credit against their produce stored there). The 1981-82 target is: five lakh tonnes of new capacity through construction of more rural godowns.

CSO: 4220/7204

KARNATAKA OPPOSES DELHI STAND ON RIVER WATERS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Jul 81 p 7

[Text]

BANGALORE, July 3.—Karnataka is opposed to the Centre taking over the responsibility to develop and manage inter-State river waters. A suggestion to this effect was made recently by the Union Home Minister, Mr Zail Singh, in the context of the Beas-Ravi dispute between Punjab and Haryana.

The Centre is reported to be considering the recommendation. The reason for making the suggestion is that owing to undue delay in resolving the disputes, projects are delayed postponing benefits and escalating costs. But political circles here believe that the idea of the Centre taking over water management stems from reports that there appear to be high stakes involved in the Beas-Ravi river waters dispute affecting the fortunes of a number of Central Punjab and Haryana leaders.

Besides the Beas-Ravi dispute, there are a number of inter-State disputes. The most prominent is the Cauvery concerning Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry. Karnataka's views on the suggestion were spelt out today by Mr H. M. Channabasappa, chairman of the Irrigation Advisory Board. He said water was a State subject and the responsibility and initiative to make full use of this scarce resource rested on the basin States. Describing the suggestion as "shortsighted", ill-advised and unworkable" Mr Channabasappa, who was Minister for Public Works and Irrigation, said that such a step would "sink the Centre and the States into an ocean of complex problems apart from reducing the States to panchayats".

He suggested two remedial measures which if implemented, would resolve inter-State disputes on sharing of river waters. One was that

the Government should evolve and implement a national river waters policy setting out broad guidelines such as the basin States exercising territorial sovereignty over the utilisation of the waters within their territory subject to limitations of national interest and prescribing the order of priority for the use of water for domestic, irrigation, power, navigation and industrial uses.

The national policy, he pointed out, should prescribe the manner of disposal of surplus waters not needed by the basin States, conditions for diversion of water outside the basin and use of underground water and exploitation of alternative resources. The other was that the River Waters Disputes Act of 1956 should be amended prescribing guidelines to tribunals entrusted with inter-State disputes.

He said that the Indus Commission of 1941 and the International Law Association at its Helsinki meeting in 1958 had laid down a number of norms which could be incorporated in the amendment. Such a step would prevent arbitrary decisions and result in quick disposal of disputes.

Mr Channabasappa was of the view that if the Centre were to takeover the planning and management of river waters, it would result in adverse consequences on the country's economy and the remedy would be worse than the disease.

GOVERNMENT APPROVES NORTHEAST FARM CORPORATION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Jul 81 p 5

[Text]

The Government has approved setting up of the north eastern regional agricultural marketing corporation with headquarters at Gauhati, reports PFI quoting an official release.

The corporation sponsored by the North Eastern Council aims at purchasing the marketable surplus of fruits and vegetables to the maximum extent possible through a network of centres at reasonable prices fixed for this purpose.

It will also make necessary arrangements for processing and marketing of fruits and vegetable products and also to ensure supply of such articles to defence forces.

The corporation to be known

as NERAMC will have an authorised capital of Rs 5 crore divided into 50,000 equity shares of Rs 1,000 each to be entirely financed by the Government through the North Eastern Council. The paid up capital will be determined from time to time depending upon the requirements of funds by the corporation.

The Planning Commission has approved an allocation of Rs 5 crore for this corporation under the NEC's sixth Plan with an amount of Rs 1 crore in the annual Plan of 1981-82. The provision will be utilised as the share capital and loan contribution to the corporation.

CSO: 4220/7193

FIRST UNITS OF RIOT POLICE READY IN 1982

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Jul 81 pp 1, 7

[Text]

The first units of the special Central Reserve Police Force battalions raised to tackle communal and caste conflagrations will take up their positions by early next year.

The recruitment of personnel for the three battalions, each numbering over 1,000 men, had run into problems as the Government faced internal resistance as well as legal hurdles. The Government found it difficult to maintain its initial proposal to raise three battalions with sizeable representations of Harijans, minority communities and other backward classes.

According to sources, the major problems have been solved or circumvented and the personnel are undergoing intensive specialised training to handle all sorts of emergencies.

LEGAL PROBLEMS

While it has been denied that some senior officers resisted the scheme to give adequate representation to sections of society which have a very low percentage of men in the force, official sources admitted that some legal problems were encountered. Recruitment could not be done openly from certain communities because of this.

However, many recruitment centres were opened, including one in Jammu.

Because the force is being raised specifically to meet the situation arising out of riots, special yard-sticks have been set to choose the personnel.

CONFIDENCE

The initial task of the task force is said to instil confidence in the people and to bolster the image of the government machinery in their eyes as a secular and non-partisan entity. Towards this, apart from improved representation of various communities and groups, more mature men have been drafted into the force. Their maturity itself, it is felt, will go a long way in restoring confidence as the people by and large have been antagonised by callow youth in uniform who are touchy with the baton or the teargas shell.

Under the special training that they are undergoing, the men are specialising in rescue, fire-fighting, relief and medicare.

Prime importance is being given to rescue and fire fighting as arson almost without exception accompanies a communal conflagration. The men are also being trained in first aid and the units will have a well-equipped medical section attached for on the spot care of the injured.

Each unit is also being given special training in evacuating people and organising relief camps and providing them security.

In addition, the task force units will have their complement of sharpshooters and special

equipment to handle all situations while a riot is in progress and in its aftermath.

POPULAR IMAGE

Organisationally, there is no scheme to provide the special units with distinctive uniform or badges. "The people will know them by their behaviour and efficiency," is the motto. It is felt that distinctive uniforms, while they may help in the image of the task force, will be detrimental to the popular image of regular police or CRPC battalions which will also have to be used together with the task force.

Each unit of the task force will be under the operational command of the district or security machinery. The units will have high mobility and trainers are now working to infuse a "esprit de corps" in the men as also an awareness of their special role.

The special task force was conceived by the Government in the wake of a series of riots which followed the Moradabad communal violence.

In the analyses of the situation, it was felt that there was urgent need to restore the confidence of the people, specially of the minority and scheduled castes in the Centre's police forces. The special force was also an answer to charges that socially downtrodden and minority communities do not have adequate representation in the police forces some of which generate a bias in favour of the dominant sections of society.

SHEIKH REPORTEDLY DECLINES TO ALIGN WITH OPPOSITION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Jul 81 p 4

[Text] Srinagar, July 4--Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah is unlikely to involve himself actively with opposition elements at the national level, though he might continue his passive association with them "pressure tactics" against the Cong-I which he suspects to be working towards toppling him.

The Sheikh is understood to have conveyed his "inability" in this regard to leaders of various opposition parties who met him recently. These leaders were stated to have sought to persuade the influential Kashmir leader to "step out" of the narrow confines of the State and join the wider battle for defending democracy at the national level.

While the Sheikh was reportedly in agreement with the basic approach of the opposition leaders, he is said to have pleaded that his preoccupation with the affairs of the State as well as his health did not permit him to shoulder additional burden.

Nevertheless, he assured them that he was willing to maintain close rapport with them.

Apart from the reasons advanced by the Sheikh, three other factors are believed to have influenced his decision. Firstly, opposition elements themselves are divided. The Sheikh's alignment with one section is likely to alienate him from the other which, in turn, would reduce his influence in national politics.

Secondly, the Sheikh's apprehension is that his active association with the opposition might accentuate his troubles with the Centre especially at a time when he was keen to see his son, Farooq Abdulloh, nominated his "political aggressor."

Thirdly, the Sheikh's active alignment with the opposition elements outside the State would "dilute" his strong regional posture in the Kashmir Valley. For instance, while the Sheikh has been resisting the demand for granting citizenship rights to the West Pakistan refugees settled here, all opposition parties have fully backed this demand which has acquired sensitive political dimensions in the valley.

Opposition leaders who recently met the Sheikh included BJP president A. B. Vajpayee Janata Party leader Madhu Dandavate Lok Dal leader Biju Patnaik and Democratic Socialist Front chief H. N. Bahuguna.

Some of them were accorded special treatment during their stay here as State guests, Mr Bahuguna also met Cong-I leader Sayed Mir Quasim, who has been persistently opposing the Pradesh Cong-I line of confrontation with the Sheikh despite being heavily outnumbered in the party over this issue.

CSO: 4220/7193

TAMIL NADU TO BEGIN ON 'OVERDUE' RAILWAY PROJECT

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Jul 81 p 3

[Text]

It was cheering news for Tamil Nadu when the Union Railway Minister announced the other day that work would begin in August on the long pending Karur-Dindigul-Tuticorin broad gauge railway project. It is envisaged that the inauguration of the work will be at the hands of the Prime Minister.

The Southern Railway, depressed in all ways in the wake of the split to form the new South Central Zone and left as a predominant metre gauge system, almost coterminous with the old company-operated South Indian Railway, has not been having new projects for some time. However, it must find 1981 a momentous year in more than one sense. In the 127th year of its existence, it is undertaking conversion of a bulk of its metre gauge track laid over a century ago, into broad gauge, in an atmosphere of hopes and expectations for the future.

The Indian Railways have in the years since Independence completed several big constructions, and major projects like conversion, doubling, electric traction and yard re-modelling, for meeting the anticipated transport requirements and also for the development of economically backward areas. Not all the new constructions met the anticipated traffic, and the backward areas chafing at being

The Rs. 43-crore Karur-Dindigul-Tuticorin project is at least 10 years overdue, according to railway ex-

perts. In fact, the Government of India conceded the claim for this project during the active political career of Kamaraj, and a survey was ordered at his instance. But somehow survey followed survey and no decision was available from Delhi for years.

Strong comments

The attitude of the Centre invited strong comments from many people.

At a number of conferences, the participants spoke bitterly about what they called "neglect of Tamil Nadu in railway programmes." No less a person than Mr. R. Venkataraman, now Union Finance Minister, participating in a conference organised by the Ramnad-Madurai Chamber of Commerce in 1978, went on record calling for the resignation of the Union Government if it could not find a pailtry Rs. 50 crores for this long, long pending railway project.

Successive State Governments from the days of Congress rule have expressed themselves strongly against the stalling of a manifestly priority project of importance to this part of the country.

The project, taken up at long last, envisages the following work: along the 324 km route between Karur and Tuticorin, a new 75 km line between Karur and Dindigul will be laid while maintaining the Dindigul-Madurai metre gauge line; a parallel 64 km broad gauge track will be put up, b.g. conversion of the track from Madurai to Tuticorin including a spur line

between Mariyachi and Tirunelveli (a distance of 187 km) is to be undertaken. Already Nagercoil has been linked by b.g. with Tirunelveli. When these schemes are completed there will be a broad gauge rail system in Tamil Nadu which is bound to promote greater economic development.

Cherished dream

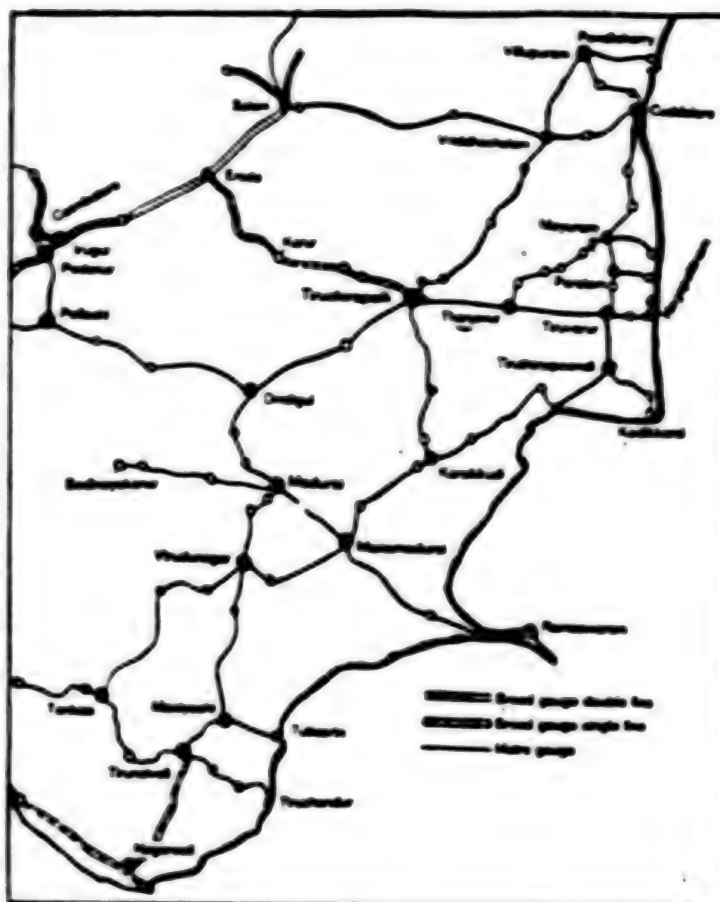
The taking up of this work marks the fulfilment of a long cherished dream of the people of South India in general and of Tamil Nadu in particular. The relatively insignificant development of industries and economic backwardness of the Southern districts are regarded as not a little due to the lack of b.g. rail communication facility. Better development of industries in Coimbatore and Salem districts is ascribed to the extension of b.g. facilities to these districts.

Materials such as pig iron, iron and steel and coal can after completion of the new project, be directly brought from, and industrial products like cement, fertilizer, matches and calendars, directly transported to destinations and markets in North India without transshipment.

Tuticottin harbour, one of the major ports of India, is comparatively under-utilised while congestion exists in Bombay, Madras and other harbours. With the availability of b.g. link up to Tuticottin, ships can be diverted to this port for unloading of imports and loading of export goods.

Saturation point

No attempt has been made to exploit to the full the inherent superiority of the railway system in Tamil Nadu. The saturation point in capacity has been reached in Madras-Tiruchi metre gauge



network and unless the railway embarks on large-scale programmes of conversion, doubling of the main m.g. line and increasing yard capacity, it will not be possible for the railway to maintain even the present level of services in the years to come, in the view of experts.

In fact, they point out that this highly saturated single line m.g. track between Madras Egmore and

Tiruchi is one of the biggest problems facing the Indian Railways in this part of the country.

If the large scale programme is not undertaken at an early date, the main lines and yards in the metre gauge network, in their view, will become clogged and traffic will slow down.

INDIA

ANDHRA PRADESH ELECTION PROBLEMS CONSIDERED

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Jul 81 p 4

[Text] The Chief Minister, Mr T. Anjiah, describes 1981 as an election year for Andhra Pradesh. About 2.7 crores of rural voters went to the polls twice in May and June to elect sarpanches of 19,000 gram panchayats and presidents of 330 panchayat samithis.

The urban voters will vote on August 9 to elect councillors for 85 municipalities and this will be followed by elections to the corporations of Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada. Elections to the primary agricultural development banks, cooperative credit societies are scheduled for October.

The coming elections to the zilla parishads and municipal councils are marked by a peculiar vacillation over the methods.

Should the municipalities directly elect their chairmen? Should these elections be on party or non-party basis? Should the chairmen of zilla parishads be elected in an open contest by show of hands or by secret ballot?

Conflicting Answers

The Government itself came out with conflicting answers to these questions of different stages, unsure of its step, because the larger interests of the ruling party obviously came in conflict with administrative procedures.

Barring the 79 samithis reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the forward communities captured all but 30 samithis in these elections. The Government then announced reservation of three zilla parishads for Harijans and one for Girijans.

Then on June 22, the Chief Minister gave a shock treatment to his partymen besieging him for zilla parishad chairmanships. He said he was considering whether a Z.P. chairman should be directly elected by the people or by all the gram sarpanches, members of gram panchayats and samithi presidents (thus enlarging the electoral college to 5,000 to 8,000 people) or retain the existing system of election by samithi presidents, members of the Assembly and the Lok Sabha in the district and members of the Council and the Rajya Sabha who opt for a district.

The announcement had its effect and the party leaders in Adilabad signed a statement unanimously agreeing to give the Adilabad Z.P. chairmanship to a minority or a backward class candidate. On June 25, the Chief Minister announced that the Cabinet had decided to retain the existing method of choosing the Z.P. chairman--but with this difference. The assembled members of the electoral college will elect the chairman in an open election, by show of hands and not by secret ballot.

Opposition parties protested that this would cut at the roots of democracy. Earlier chairmen were elected through the secret ballot. Though having no chance at all of winning a single chairmanship. Opposition protested over "stifling dissent within the ruling party."

The Chief Minister, rejecting this criticism, pointed out that the Speaker was being elected by a show of hands. Noting that the chairman would be elected by 20 to 40 people, he asked: Can they be afraid to show their preference openly?

Obviously the aim is that some at least of these zilla parishads should be headed by those belonging to backward classes and minorities. And the fear was that once the Chief Minister decided on the candidates, the powerful caste groups in the districts might combine to defeat the backward class candidate and elect an Opposition nominee by cross-voting.

Statutory Notification

In fact, some of the Ministers opposed reservations for Scheduled Castes and Tribes candidates through an Ordinance, on the ground that these people could be elected through a party fiat. But the Harijan Ministers insisted on a statutory notification for the reason that a Harijan elected today can be replaced tomorrow through a no-confidence motion without any guarantee of the new incumbent being a Harijan.

Reservation of the chairmanships for Harijans was also marked by vacillation as to the legal procedures to be adopted. One view, which the Chief Minister himself expressed on June 14, was to select districts with the highest Harijan population, because then East Godavari, Karimnagar and Chittoor would become the natural choice and fulfil the political need to reserve a district from each of the three regions in the State.

But the percentage of SC population, not its number, had to be the legal basis for such reservation and this principle resulted in Nellore, Karimnagar and Ranga Reddi districts falling under the SC reservations list. The list included two districts from Telengana and none from Rayalaseema.

After consultation with lawyers, the Government invoked a proviso in the Delimitation Act which spoke of these reservations being made "as far as possible" on the basis of percentage of population and skipped Karimnagar to include the next district in the descending order of SC population, Chittoor.

Safe for Congress(I)

The Opposition did have a chance to capture the Khammam Zilla Parishad, but the option exercised by 13 Congress(I) members of the Legislative Council and Rajya Sabha in favour of Khammam district completely altered the picture, and made the district safe for the Congress(I).

In the Panchayat Act, the original provision was that an MLC or MP should vote in that samithi area in which he is a registered voter, but this was amended two years ago to give the MLCs and Rajya Sabha members the right to opt for any samithi.

Ad Hoc Decisions

The Government has issued a total of five Ordinances on the panchayat raj elections, and changed the methods of election by amending the rules under the Act. The Opposition parties have strongly criticised these ad hoc decisions.

Mr S. Jaipal Reddi, leader of the Janata group in the Assembly, says the "Government headed by Mr Anjiah is a headless wonder. The Chief Minister is a prisoner of indecision. Like instant coffee, Mr Anjiah is delivering instant legislation through Ordinances."

But the Chief Minister says the Opposition parties never believed the Government was going to hold the panchayat elections at all. "We had to prove to them that we were sincere in these elections and we held them. If they are overtaken by surprise and shock, how can we be blamed?"

CSO: 4220/7192

KERALA HIGH COURT QUASHES DIRECTIVE AGAINST RSS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Jul 81 p 14

[Text] Cochin, July 7 (UNI): Kerala High Court yesterday quashed a state government directive that schools should not be rented out or given to the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) for its functions.

Mr. Justice K. K. Narendran ordered the quashing of the directive while disposing of writ petitions filed by the Kerala pradesh RSS secretary, Mr. T. V. Ananthan, and the Tellicherry taluka RSS karya vahak, Mr. M. Rajgopal.

The petitioners had challenged the directive, issued on October 1, 1978, withdrawing permission given to them by the district educational officer to use the government high school at Chirakkarador to accommodate participants in a reception organised in honour of the RSS chief, Balasaheb Deoras.

The government had contended that RSS activities were harmful to public tranquillity, and that it would not be proper to allow RSS men to stay in a place where children of all communities studied.

Mr. Justice Narendran, in his order said the government could not pick and choose the persons with whom it would deal. If the government did not want to allow public functions to be held in government schools, it should frame rules accordingly and deny permission to all.

But if it was giving permission to some, it could not deny the same to others arbitrarily. Simply because the government was given the power to issue directives, it could not be said that the government had the power to discriminate among organisations and prevent some from using government school buildings for their public functions.

CSO: 4220/7249

INDIA

'STATESMAN' GRANTED STAY ON DUTY NOTIFICATION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Jul 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, July 9.--The Supreme Court today passed an order granting an ad interim stay to THE STATESMAN LIMITED, staying the operation of the March 1 notification imposing an ad valorem 10% customs duty and the consequential auxiliary duty of 5% on the import of newsprint. The company agreed to furnish a total bank guarantee on each consignment clearly pending the final disposal of the petition challenging the imposition of import duties.

The vacation judge, Mr Justice A. D. Koshal, passed the order.

In his writ petition, Mr C. R. Irani, the Managing Director and a shareholder, submitted on behalf of the company that the additional duties, now sought to be imposed, would be a crippling blow to the economy and the independence of the big newspapers, such as THE STATESMAN, particularly when the industry was already reeling under a heavy financial strain owing to revision of wages, increases in fuel and newsprint prices and in railway freight rates.

The increase in the cost of newsprint in 1981-82, compared to 1979-80, was already as high as Rs 73.73 lakhs. With the further anticipated increase in the cost of newsprint this month, the total increase in the cost of imported newsprint was expected to reach about Rs 90.29 lakhs. The import duty payable would be approximately Rs 57 lakhs.

The only way in which the additional burden could be met would be either by (A) reducing the circulation; or (B) increasing the selling price; or (C) increasing the advertisement rates; or (D) cutting down the page level. The adoption of any one or more of these methods would inevitably adversely affect the circulation and advertisements of the newspapers and other publications owned by the company.

This, in turn, would directly affect his and other shareholders' fundamental rights under Articles 19(1) (A)-19(1) (G). It was submitted that the rates of imports duty were discriminatory and thus violative of Article 14 of the Constitution.

Mr Soli Sorabjee appeared for the petitioners, assisted by Mr John of Messrs. J. B. Dadachanji. Mr K. Parasaran, Solicitor-General, appeared on behalf of India, assisted by Miss Subhashini.

Similar orders granting stays were passed by the court today in the case of the Saurashtra Trust and Ushodaya Publications. This brings the total number of newspaper groups which have been granted stays to five.

ORGANIZATION OF ANDAMANS COUNCIL DESCRIBED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Jun 81 p 4

[Text] Calcutta, June 19--Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Yogendra Makwana will inaugurate the Pradesh Council of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar at Port Blair on 20 June. For the first time in the history of the Union Territory, the people, numbering about 1.88 lakhs, are going to have an elected body.

The Pradesh Council will consist of 30 members. Of them, 24 are elected by the people of the islands and the rest are ex-officio members and chairman of the council. Judicial Secretary of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration H Kar will function as the first secretary of the Pradesh Council.

Three electoral colleges of Andaman, Nicobar and Port Blair were formed to elect 24 representatives. These electoral colleges elected 13, six and five representatives. Elections were held last month. Among the elected members of the Council, 13 belong to the Cong-I one to DMK and the rest are independents. A five member executive council will be formed to manage the affairs of the Union Territory.

Besides the Chief Commissioner, member to the Lok Sabha from the islands Manoranjan Bhauta and senior vice-chairman of the Port Blair Municipality Abdur Rahman will be the ex-officio members of the council.

CSO: 4220/7080

MAHARASHTRA CONGRESS-U EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS PASSED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Jun 81 p 1

[Text] Bombay, June 21--The executive committee of the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress committee(U) today cleared the confusion in its ranks by resolving to rebuild and strengthen the party in the state.

The confusion had prevailed among the Congress(U) workers, following the resignation of Mr Y. B. Chavan and the subsequent "exodus" from the party at all levels.

Hundreds of party workers who had thronged Tilak Bhavan, the state party headquarters, to know the outcome of the crucial meeting of the state executive, "ratified" the resolution with jubilant shouts of "Sharad Pawar Zindabad."

As the anxious workers who had come from all over the state had packed the hall, the executive meeting had to be converted virtually into a general body meeting of the state Congress (U).

The 300-word resolution, moved by Mr Raibhan Jadhav, MLA, and seconded by Mr R. A. Khaire, pledged to strengthen the party on democratic lines and in the interests of the "freedom and dignity of the individual" as enunciated by Mahatma Gandhi and Nehru.

The resolution praised the courage and determination with which the party workers overcome the "recent crisis" and said that such adherence to principles alone would create confidence among the people about the party.

The resolution also pledged to fight for justice to the oppressed masses in the prevailing conditions of "economic chaos," rising prices, unemployment and corruption.

There were two other resolutions adopted by the executive today. One, moved by Mr S. W. Dhabe, MP, and seconded by Dr Ishaq Jamkhanawala, demanded that the UP government be dismissed as even the election commission had felt that the government machinery had been misused in the parliamentary by-election in Garhwal.

The other resolution, moved by Mr Sonubhau Baswant and seconded by Mr Prabhakar Dharkar, MLC, condemned the firing, lathi-charge and other repressive measures taken by the government against the farmers who were agitating for just prices for the acquired lands in Raigad district.

NAGA REBELS REPORTEDLY DRAW UP ASSASSINATION LIST

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Jun 81 p 7

[Text] Calcutta, June 20. The Muivah-Isaac Swue faction of Naga rebels is reported to have made a list of 500 Nagas to be assassinated. These have been chosen as targets because of their support to the Shillong accord, and cooperation to the Union Government.

Over 12 of the listed have already been assassinated.

The Naga rebels have reportedly circulated some documents from their hideout called 'Oking,' which itself is always mobile. According to one document, the rebels celebrated on 21 March, the first anniversary of their "people's republic of Nagaland." As chairman of the 'National Socialist Council of Nagaland' Isaac Swue was then away to Peking, S. S. Khaplang, vice-chairman presided over the functions.

Khaplang, in a speech said 'salvation of everyone of us lies in the course chosen by the National Socialist Council of Nagaland.

He accused the 'traitors' led by the NNC of collaborating with the enemy for fighting against the 'patriots'. They were brought over and financed and were armed to the teeth by the Indian Government.

Khaplang also said that Nagaland will have to be saved from the accord makers and the treacherous phizo's clique.

Another Oking document said Phizo wanted to be the lifetime Chief Minister of the 'so-called Nagaland State, and establish the position of his men.'

The note said Phizo's long attempt to go to India is for the sole purpose of capitulating to India on a Sheikh Abdullah-type status.

The document warned Phizo and said that the people would not tolerate such attempts and history will definitely settle account with the traitors.

CSO: 4220/7083

RESIGNATION OF 'TRANSFERRED' MADRAS JUSTICE ANNOUNCED

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Jul 81 p 1

[Text]

MADRAS July 8

The President has appointed Mr. Puvangudi Ramiahpillai Gokulakrishnan, Judge of the Madras High Court, to perform the duties of the Chief Justice of the High Court with effect from July 9.

Mr. Gokulakrishnan has already been officiating as Chief Justice from February 6 — the date on which the Chief Justice Mr. M. M. Ismail proceeded on five months' leave.

The leave period of Mr. Ismail ended today and he has tendered his resignation effective from tomorrow (July 9). The Presidential notification appointing Mr. Gokulakrishnan as officiating Chief Justice in his place was received here tonight.

In the middle of January, the Government of India transferred Mr. Ismail as Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court in the place of Mr. Balakrishna Easwari, who was elevated as a Judge

of the Supreme Court. Mr. K. B. N. Singh, Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, was transferred to Madras in the place of Mr. Ismail.

Both the Chief Justices objected to the transfers ordered without their consent. Soon after the transfer order was received, Mr. Ismail wrote to the President seeking permission to avail himself of the leave to his credit and retire prematurely at the end of his leave period. He sent his resignation letter to the President yesterday.

Meanwhile, the transfer of the Chief Justices of the two High Courts became the subject of a legal battle in the Supreme Court in which the validity of the transfer was challenged on the ground that the powers conferred on the President to transfer judges did not apply to Chief Justices. The writ petition filed by some members of the bar are still pending before the Supreme Court.

CSO: 4220/7255

BISHESWAR SINGH'S ARREST LEAVES PLA WITHOUT LEADER

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Jul 81 p 6

[Text]

IMPHAL July 8

Security forces engaged in anti-insurgency measures in Manipur have reason to be happy over the arrest of Bisheswar Singh, a top leader of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) on Monday, as it means, according to army officials and Government spokesman, closure of a bloody chapter on the armed rebellion in Manipur.

With the arrest of Bisheswar and the death of almost all hardcore members, PLA has no leader who can rejuvenate the underground movement. However, the PLA leader's arrest does not mean an end of the armed rebellion in Manipur, according to observers. They refer to what had happened among leaders of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), another underground organisation.

Rajkumar Tuiachandra, leader of PREPAK, was arrested in January last. People were given the impression that PREPAK would be liquidated soon. However, Maipak Sharma, who was second in command, became its leader and for over a year continued to create law and order problems.

Though Maipak Sharma was arrested and over 300 PREPAK members surrendered, recent reports indicate that it is active in the north-eastern region.

Many interesting details will be known after the interrogation of Bisheswar on his Chinese connection and how he managed to dodge the security forces so long.

Brilliant academic record: Bisheswar belongs to a poor family. Notwithstanding his brilliant academic record, he was denied a Government job as he had no black money to grease the palms of bureaucracy. Desillusioned by the prevailing rampant corruption, he went underground and joined the outlawed revolutionary government of Manipur.

He first went to the erstwhile East Pakistan for undergoing guerrilla training.

After the birth of Bangladesh, these Manipuri insurgents were driven out. In 1974 Bisheswar and Sudhir Singh, along with several hard core members, came overground when the Manipur Government announced a general amnesty. All of them were given land and money to enable them start life afresh.

But Bisheswar did not join the underground movement for personal gain. After a few months he went to China for guerrilla training, an in-depth study of the teachings of Mao and above all to seek Chinese help in the form of money and sophisticated arms. He came back to Manipur in 1978 and formed PLA.

Observers agree that in all respects PLA is more matured and well-organised. All underground operations were carried out with military perfection and significantly none of the rebels voluntarily surrendered.

In a signed statement Bisheswar said the reasons for the petering out of insurgency in Nagaland and Mizoram was that the rebels thought only in terms of independent Mizoram and Nagaland. He would set ablaze the whole of India to free the downtrodden from the clutches of "Defth bandits", he had said.

Intelligence reports say that he had joined hands with Tangkhul Muivah, the new leader of the Naga rebels for a concerted onslaught. The security forces succeeded in arresting only Rajen Achoubai and Chhrom Ranit, two hardcore rebels in chance encounters.

The army had claimed Bisheswar, allegedly suffering from tuberculosis, had sustained bullet injuries in an encounter at Choro, a border village late last year and that with the help of some comrades he managed to escape.

Some months later the Army again said he was hiding somewhere in the morai valley and that he would be arrested soon.

ELECTION COMMISSION PROPOSES START OF DELIMITATION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Jul 81 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 2.—The Government is understood to be considering a proposal to restart the process of delimitation frozen until 2001 under the Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act.

Under the Act, not only had the process of delimitation been stayed for more than two decades but also the number of seats in the State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha kept at the existing level until after the turn of the century.

The Election Commission, which has sent the proposal for starting the delimitation work while keeping the number of seats at the existing level until after 2000, has argued that the disparity in population between one constituency and another could be lessened only through the delimitation process.

Article 81, which provides for the composition of the Lok Sabha, and Article 170 which deals with the composition of the State Assemblies, stipulate that "each State shall be divided into territorial constituencies in such manner that the ratio between the population of each constituency and the number of seats allotted to it so far as practicable, is the same throughout the State".

The influx of population after the last census has resulted in disparity at times on a wide scale. Delhi itself provides a telling story. In the last general election while New Delhi had an electorate of 301,071 and Delhi Sadar 340,203, East Delhi had 677,353 and Outer Delhi 697,825. There are numerous other similar instances elsewhere

not only in the Lok Sabha constituencies but Assembly constituencies where there are wide divergences between the population (electorate).

The Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act had decided on freezing the delimitation process because it had been found that Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh had comparatively the smallest growth of population. If the seats were to be increased in terms of population they stood to lose their strength in the legislatures. The need to provide for a certain stability in numbers in the legislatures for some time and the physical problem of accommodating increasing numbers in limited legislature space were the other considerations.

If the Government were to accept the Election Commission's proposal and agree to restart the delimitation process on the basis of the latest census, it would mean amending Articles 81 and 170 of the Constitution.

However, because of the time-lag between the availability of census figures to the commission, the start of the delimitation process and the next elections, whenever held, a certain extent of disparity between one constituency and another, specially in urban areas, is bound to occur.

MUKHERJEE MEMBERSHIP IN RAJYA SABHA CHALLENGED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Jul 81 p 4

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 3.—Mr S. S. Goyal filed on Thursday two documents with the Election Commission in support of allegations contained in a letter to the President. Mr Goyal had in his letter of June 18 challenged the constitutionality of Mr Pranab Mukherjee continuing to represent his original constituency in West Bengal as a member of the Rajya Sabha.

After the deletion of his name from this constituency, in April 1980, Mr Goyal contended, Mr Mukherjee ceased to represent the State of West Bengal. It was, therefore, unconstitutional on his part to continue to be a member of the Rajya Sabha and function as a Union Minister. The matter has been referred to the Election Commission by the President for its opinion.

In his affidavit, Mr Goyal contended that according to Article 73 of the Constitution, Mr Mukherjee could continue as a Minister for six months only after he ceased to represent his original constituency in April, 1980. But after that his

holding office as a Minister was unconstitutional and unauthorized, he added.

Mr Goyal has asked the Election Commission to clarify what State Mr Mukherjee represents in the Rajya Sabha now. He is no longer a "resident" of West Bengal and he had not been elected by Gujarat to represent it, he added.

Mr Goyal submitted that continuation as a member of the Rajya Sabha by Mr Mukherjee was a fraud on the constitutional provisions and the provisions contained in the Representation of the People Act since "such a continuation creates an imbalance in the allocation of seats among the States as envisaged by Schedule IV of the Constitution".

The matter will come up for hearing in Delhi High Court on July 19. Mr Goyal said in Delhi on Friday that he would again impress upon the President that in view of the involvement of very important constitutional provisions, the matter should be referred to the Supreme Court for its opinion.

CSO: 4220/7184

EXPERT TELLS WEAKNESSES OF FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Jul 81 p 8

[Article by Dr T. N. Krishnan, honorary fellow at the Center for Development Studies, Trivandrum]

[Text] An autonomous Central Family Planning Board to implement the population programme and a National Commission on Population to study all inter-related aspects and propose appropriate policy measures are suggested by [the author] who specialises in the area of population and growth.

JUDGING the reactions of various persons not excluding government officials to the result of the 1981 count of the Indian population one suspects that quite a few of them were surprised and even shocked by the magnitude of its growth.

If one had closely examined the operational aspects of our family planning programme as well as the results of the annual sample surveys on population conducted by the Registrar General's office one would not have been surprised by this result.

The annual population surveys have indicated that birth rate declines of any substantial order had taken place only in the urban areas and excepting in a few States like Kerala and Maharashtra the rural birth rates had only marginally declined.

There is reason to believe that whatever little decline that has occurred in the rural sector might well be due to an increase in the age at which girls get married in recent years and family planning might not have contributed anything at all towards this decline.

The Registrar General had admitted in his press conference that the actual count came very close to the population projection made by the United Nations. Therefore it is worthwhile examining the U.N. prognosis of our population growth

which is based on current trends and what is achievable in the near future with regard to reducing birth rates.

Doubling in 30 years

It will also give us some idea of the magnitude of the population problem that is likely to emerge if the present trends continue. The U.N. estimates that India's population is likely to reach 820 millions in 1990 and 360 millions in the year 2000. If we look beyond the year 2000, it is seen that by the year 2025 India's population will have exceeded 1200 millions.

Between '95 and '98 our population has nearly doubled. During this period the economic performance of India in terms of quantities of output of various commodities compares favourably with many of the developing countries. But the rise in population has negated some of these achievements and has increased the severity and magnitude of a number of economic and social problems to unprecedented levels.

While we cannot entirely lay the blame on population growth for our economic plight, it is important to recognise that without controlling the growth of population the solutions to our problems will continue to elude us.

The aftermath of the census appears to have generated some amount of panic in certain circles and a stepping up in trading barbs between political parties for the 'fiasco'. Nonetheless, the obvious

solution that appears to many is a strengthening of the family planning programme by allocating larger budgetary resources for this purpose.

It is at once necessary to raise a warning that a continuation of the family programme in its present form and structure even with considerably larger budgetary resources is likely to end in another disaster and it will be too late to reverse the population trends by the time the 1991 census is taken as it will have been taken.

Reasons for failure

An analysis of the nature of the family planning programme coupled with an understanding of the objective socio-economic conditions necessary for a decline in birth rates will make it clear why the growth rate has remained practically the same in the Seventies as in the Sixties in spite of all our efforts and expenditure devoted to family planning.

One can attribute this failure to four major factors: (1) lack of choice in methods and the restrictive nature of our family planning programme; (2) the limited coverage of our delivery system especially to the rural areas; (3) the operation of the programme through the governmental administrative machinery; and (4) the inadequacy of the measures taken to create the pre-conditions necessary for large-scale acceptance and practice of family planning.

Obviously, if we desire to reduce the future rate of population growth radical changes will be required in all these four areas.

(1) The Indian family planning programme is built around sterilisation and offers very limited choices to couples as to the method of restriction of family sizes. Sterilisation for all practical purposes is an irreversible method and therefore would be adopted only by those couples who would be certain of not wanting another child.

By concentrating on sterilisation the Indian programme also neglects an important aspect of family planning spacing of children. In a situation where infant and child mortality rates continue to remain high couples would like to retain their option to have children in circumstances so warrant.

Under this situation even those who desire to restrict their family size would like to wait for a few years before they undergo sterilisation. All those couples may opt for methods of limitation other than sterilisation if such methods are readily available.

For instance many Southeast Asian countries rely primarily on the pill to control fertility but its distribution has been severely limited in our country. It is also necessary to point out here that efforts

and resources devoted to research on contraceptive technology are inadequate in our country. They bear no relationship to the magnitude of the population problem that we face in our country.

Inadequate coverage

(2) Even a substantial rise in expenditure on family planning to strengthen the present approach may not lead to a significant increase in protection of couples because the family planning delivery system is woefully inadequate in its coverage of the population. Sterilisation can be undertaken only by medical personnel and it requires a minimum of clinical and surgical facilities.

In large parts of the country there is no easy accessibility to such facilities and therefore it will not be possible to implement a large-scale programme in sterilisation. The only exception to this is Kerala where health facilities have been easily accessible to the rural population and where family planning has reasonably succeeded.

Most of the medical facilities are available only in urban areas and even in those rural areas where such facilities are said to exist they exist more often in theory than in practice. The question of accessibility involves not only physical accessibility but also social accessibility.

Persons belonging to the poorer classes from the rural areas are discriminated against in many parts of the country with the result that they visit public medical institutions only in situations of grave illness.

An examination of the data on the extent of utilisation of health facilities and the level of mortality rates in various States clearly demonstrates that we have failed to deliver health care to the bulk of the rural population. It is a well-known fact that this situation has developed in our country because of the reluctance of our medical graduates to serve in rural areas with the result that there exists hospitals and clinics but which do not function for the lack of a doctor.

While we have failed even to deliver the basic health care to the rural population how can we depend on the same institutional framework to implement an extensive family planning programme?

Greater choices

This provides another reason why it is necessary to diversify the methods of family planning available to the population. The current family planning programme has become a prisoner of the Indian medical system and it can have freedom only if we provide delivery systems outside of the medical network in which case it is possible to provide greater choices to the people.

Some countries of Asia such as Indonesia have been utilising the services

indigenous channels like the traditional midwives to implement the family planning programme. But our programme is notable for its lack of innovative approach, except perhaps for the Kerala experiment in promoting family planning camps.

3) A third factor which has contributed to the failure of the family planning programme is its implementation through the governmental bureaucracy. However, it is at once necessary to point out that one cannot blame the bureaucracy for the failure of our family planning programme because bureaucracies are not generally designed for implementing such programmes.

Governmental administrative machinery functions by adopting certain rule of thumb procedures which can be enforced without any regard to human sensibilities and which are subject to behavioural variations. The acceptance of family planning on the other hand, essentially depends on the decisions of individual couples which may even involve at times contacting personally the families and educating them on the benefits accruing from family limitation.

Personnel lacking

Unfortunately, we neither have the necessary personnel within the government administration to undertake such a large-scale operation nor can we afford the expenditure involved in such operations. With the result that the family planning programme is implemented precisely in the same manner as the implementation of any other administrative decision.

The Central Government lays down the annual targets for the number of sterilisations, numbers to be protected by various other methods of contraception etc. which are in turn broken down to State targets. Similarly, at the State level, the targets are fixed for the various lower level administrative divisions, such as districts, talukas etc.

Given the nature of health facilities available in the rural areas, one even feels a little suspicious of the numbers reported to have undergone sterilisation. But there is no doubt that the family planning programme has reasonably been successful in the urban areas and this becomes apparent from the decline in urban birth rates.

4) While the inadequacy of the coverage of family planning and the manner in which the programme is administered, no doubt, are accountable for its limited impact on population growth, one should not overlook the fact that the necessary pre-conditions for reducing birth rates are absent in many parts of the country.

These pre-conditions can be created only by an intensive effort at socio-economic changes aimed at increasing the literacy levels of the population, reducing infant and child mortality rates by spreading public health facilities, controlling infectious diseases by improving sanitary conditions, reducing malnutrition by public distribution of foodgrains and by land reforms for raising agricultural productivity and for generating additional employment.

Where infant mortality rate exceeds 150 deaths for every 1000 children born

as in Uttar Pradesh, there will be severe psychological barriers to reducing birth rates even if one were to push family planning to its limits.

Lessons of Kerala

There is conclusive evidence from various parts of the world that a family planning programme complementing a socio-economic programme produces the maximum impact in reducing birth rates. For such evidence in fact, we do not even have to look elsewhere. The lessons of Kerala are sufficient to illustrate this point.

When the Kerala State was constituted by merging Malabar district with Travancore-Cochin, the conditions in Malabar were no different from the rest of India. Literacy rates were much lower in Malabar compared to Travancore-Cochin, similar differences existed in the availability of health care facilities and in infant and general death rates. The birth rate in Malabar was close to 45 per 1000 population. But in 20 years, the picture is quite different.

The differences in educational levels and in health care facilities have almost disappeared, death rates in Malabar area are only marginally higher than in the former Travancore-Cochin area. The birth rate in Malabar, like in the rest of Kerala, has dramatically declined and it is now around 25 per 1000 population.

These results in the areas of education, health and family planning have achieved in Kerala without raising the per capita expenditures on any of these items beyond the levels prevailing in other States of India. In fact, per capita expenditure in a few of these sectors may even be lower in Kerala.

But then, how is it that in Kerala the results are so different? This is so because all the public goods in Kerala are more readily accessible to the majority of the population—they are assured of economic, social and physical access. This is not so in most parts of the country. This does not however imply that replication of the same organisational structure as in Kerala will be feasible or is desirable in all regions.

Accessibility

What we have to assure is ready accessibility to education, health and family planning for everyone in all parts of the country. Whether this can be done through a similar organisational and delivery mechanism as in Kerala or by evolving different systems needs careful study.

The main defect in implementing development programmes through governmental bureaucracy is that it does not permit any innovative variations in delivery systems to suit local conditions and needs.

The most important of pre-conditions for successfully implementing a population programme in our country, however, is taking it outside the vortex of Indian politics. Population programme impinges on personal, family and religious sensibilities and political bickering can have disastrous consequences for making its goals acceptable to the people.

Its implementation is entrusted to an autonomous Central Family Planning

Board, which will oversee the functioning of similar State-level Boards, and responsible only to the National Development Council, it might be possible to eliminate the political element from this programme. The members of the Board might include representatives from major political parties, technical experts, prominent social workers and citizens representing voluntary organisations and agencies.

While a vigorous family planning programme will require constant propaganda and dissemination of knowledge, in combination with certain measures of incentives and disincentives, such a programme should not border on compulsion. Even if there is no compulsion, a strong programme can be accused of incorporating elements of compulsion when it is implemented directly under the aegis of the government, especially when incentives and disincentives are built into it.

Whatever be the nature of the family planning programme under the Emergency, the fact that it acquired a reputation of being undertaken under compulsion, has done incalculable harm to the progress of family planning in our country.

We can avoid a similar situation in the future, if the programme is implemented through an autonomous body as suggested here. This will also permit many innovations in the delivery system. It will be possible to promote and utilise voluntary organisations and increase the participation of the people and the community in implementing the programme.

National Consensus

It is equally important that in arriving at a national consensus, it should be based on the size of population that can be sustained ultimately, given the resource base and the development potential of our country. Our understanding of the interrelationships between population, resources and environment has considerably increased in recent years, and the impact of population in upsetting the ecological balance should not be minimised.

In this context, it is worth considering the setting up of a National Commission on Population which will study all interrelated aspects of population and propose appropriate policy measures taking into account the long-term objectives of our national development.

It is also important to point out that population issues go beyond the questions of family planning and there are vital problems such as the nature and extent of rural-urban migration, the problems of inter-State migration and sharing the burdens imposed by refugees and such other issues.

The tensions generated by some of these problems are already apparent in the "sons of soil" argument raised in various States about job opportunities and in the painful results of the Assam agitation. An examination of the 1981 census data indicates that some of these issues may not be without foundation. Since 1951, Assam has experienced a decadal growth rate of about 35 per cent during each of the three decades compared to about 25 per cent for the whole of India.

These issues raise not only the need for balanced regional economic development but also promoting a balanced distribution of population taking into account the distribution of resources. Only a high power National Commission basing itself on detailed studies can delineate the policies on all these issues, taking into account the regional sensibilities and proposing solutions which are acceptable to all sections and regions within our country. If we do not arrive at such a national consensus, the implementation of a national population programme is likely to run into various obstacles.

Norm in China

A number of countries have undertaken similar exercises in recent years and one of these is a recent study by China. The Chinese study seems to have arrived at the conclusion that in the long-term China could sustain only a population of 750 millions given its resource base and the long-term goals on the standard of living they desire for their population.

China has embarked on a radical population programme which advocates single-child families and couples are rewarded or punished by appropriate economic incentives or disincentives for adhering to this goal. The single-child norm is necessary to achieve a negative population growth, at least for some time, till the total population of China falls from the currently estimated one billion (1,000 million) to the targeted 750 million.

The countries of Asia, excepting those belonging to the Indian subcontinent, are now undergoing a dramatic transformation in their population growth. There have been significant declines in their birth rates and in population growth rates in the countries of the Southeast Asian region. But, the countries belonging to the Indian subcontinent still find their "population problem" intractable. No doubt, this partly arises from their own common historical heritage--the similarities in administrative machinery, in approach and in implementation.

This is the right time for us to undertake a dispassionate and objective analysis of our population question and start anew on an innovative family planning programme. We owe it to the future generations that at least they be able to lead a decent and self-respecting life in our country.

CSO: 4229/7185

BENGAL GOVERNMENT CONCERNED OVER TRIBAL UNREST

Madras THE HINDU in English - Jul 81 p 6

[Text]

CALCUTTA July 3

Certain disquieting features in the present tribal unrest in several West Bengal districts which appear to be spreading are causing concern to the State administration.

Last year the southern districts of Midnapore, Bankura and Purulia reported tensions and minor incidents from the tribal belts. This time trouble is expected during the present sowing season.

What the administration finds strange is the fact that the leadership of the tribal agitations seems to be passing over to non-tribal hands. Also economic considerations are playing a decisive role.

For instance, tribal and non-tribal landowners are using such agitations against the interests of peasants and sharecroppers regardless of their origins, whether they were tribals or not. A class division has become apparent in the tribal belts.

Some demands justified: However, the State Government circles were agreed that certain demands made by the tribal people were justified. These were the demand for the restoration of alienated land, for a forest welfare scheme and greater employment opportunities. Work by the official agencies to meet the demands even partially had not progressed satisfactorily.

However, a mobile employment exchange was set up for the first time some weeks ago in Bankura district and had drawn good response.

In Purulia district, the tribals were led by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and in Bankura by the Jharkhand Party (JP). Jharkhand is the name of the proposed separate State for tribals to be carved out of West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa.

The leadership of the tribal organisations, however, now rested more with Mohandas and in certain areas even minority community landlords than tribals. Thus during the past few weeks a group of tribal leaders met landlords of the Hooghly areas to discuss how to contain the land reforms movement.

They also asked for seven trucks, three jeeps, a bus and a car for their proposed rallies in the other southern districts. The Hooghly district landlords met their demands.

Some time ago at Simulpal, Hooghly, while the local peasants' organisation tried to distribute land among the needy, the tribals resisted the move fiercely with bows and arrows. This was the first such incident in Hooghly district.

These and other developments were discussed recently at a meeting where the Chief Minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, addressed district magistrates and superintendents of police.

It was alleged that in many areas the Congress (O) lent its support for the tribal agitations. But support from the left was not lacking either. Mr. A. K. Roy, well-known left leader of Dhanbad belt, had also addressed several tribal rallies in recent weeks.

Another setup of the tribals seemed to be with a group of anti-socials who were very active in Radhanathpur

Neturia and Kasour areas in Bankura and Purulia.

The criminals were engaged for a long time in illegal mining, smuggling and other activities. This seemed to show that the movement for a separate State was assuming different forms in different areas, its leadership being uncertain in some areas. It was heading for a degeneration.

According to analyses of the tribal movements made by the administration, it seemed clear that the agricultural work in the tribal minority and majority districts would be affected badly this year.

Govt's role: The State Government's role has been dismal. It was clear that the proposed restoration of alienated land had proceeded slowly. But the extremist tribal elements were impatient with the pace and demanded that either the Government stop its work or show greater seriousness.

Regarding the scheme to grant tribals their customary rights within forest, like leaf-picking, timber hunting, etc., it was admitted that the administrative staff at the lower level had dragged their feet. In fact, the employment exchange was the only concrete sign that the administration had taken any notice of the tribals' admittedly legitimate grievances.

CSC: 4220/7185

MINISTER CHALLENGES LEGALITY OF GARHWAL REPOLL

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 23 Jun 81 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, June 22.—Mr C. M. Stephen, Congress D leader, at a Press conference here today, contended that the Chief Election Commissioner had no jurisdiction to deploy outside police personnel in any State for ensuring law and order during elections, report PTI and UNI.

Mr S. L. Shukla's order for a repoll in the Garhwal parliamentary constituency had raised vital issues and the Government would have to take certain decisions regarding the responsibilities of the Election Commission, Mr Stephen, Minister for Communications, said. "We, however, accept the Election Commission's decision with full grace".

Mr Stephen said it was surprising that Mr Shukla did not touch upon the Congress D complaint about the deployment of "musclemen" by Mr H. N. Bahuguna, the Democratic Socialist Front leader, to "terrorize" voters. The important question in Garhwal was "musclemen versus police", he said.

The Minister said that the deployment of police personnel was entirely a matter concerning the civil authorities. "It is not within the jurisdiction of the Election Commission". The Election Commission could only suggest infected areas of polling where only a certain level of police presence should be maintained.

Mr Stephen said that in spite of the infirmity from which the Election Commission order suffered, he was willing to accept the repoll and was confident that the Congress D would win. Asked if the Government would amend the Representation of People's Act to curtail the powers of the Election Commission, he said he could say nothing about it at this stage. But he would certainly state that the stand taken by him had posed some political questions before the Government. It had to ponder the implications seriously.

Elaborating his objections to the Commission's order, Mr Stephen said he would have had no quarrel if Mr Shukla had set aside the poll on the grounds that there

had been rigging on the part of the Congress D workers or that there were other kinds of malpractices. The Minister said that Mr Shukla had released the report of his secretary who had made references to rigging. But in his own order Mr Shukla had not adduced it as a reason for holding the election void. It was unfair of the Chief Election Commissioner to have released the report without giving any weight to his finding, Mr Stephen added.

The Congress D general secretary, Mr Vasantrao Patil, said on Saturday that the Election Commission had ordered a repoll in the Garhwal Lok Sabha constituency on "untenable grounds".

Mr Patil, in a statement, said it was a normal practice during elections for the administration to deploy forces from all available sources to maintain law and order. "There was nothing wrong in this", he said.

He said permission for deployment of police forces from neighbouring States during the elections had never been obtained from the Election Commission.

Mr Patil said the Chief Election Commissioner had not found any truth in Mr H. N. Bahuguna's allegation that booths had been captured by the Congress D workers. In fact, he said, the Congress D candidate, Mr Chander Mohan Singh Negi, and other senior Congress D leaders had charged Mr Bahuguna's men with capturing booths in two segments of the constituency.

He alleged that Mr Bahuguna had inducted antisocial elements into the constituency to terrorize Congress D workers and the people of Garhwal.

Mr Patil, however, said his party would respect the Election Commission decision.

KARNATAKA SPEAKER SUSPENDS URS, OTHER OPPONENTS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Jun 81 p 1

[Text]

BANGALORE, June 23 (UNTA)

MR D. DEVRAJ URS, former Karnataka Chief Minister and Congress-U president, and 26 other opposition members, belonging to the Congress-U, the Janata Party and the CPI, were today suspended from the Karnataka Legislative Assembly till the end of the current session.

The suspension followed their continued dharna and squatting in the well of the House for the second day today demanding dropping of Planning Minister C M Ibrahim against whom a criminal case has been registered in Bhandravati.

When his repeated requests not to obstruct the proceedings of the House went unheeded, Speaker K H Ranganath named the members for their 'gross disorderly behaviour'.

Then the chief whip, Mr B Bhaskar Shetty moved the resolution for suspension which was carried by the House.

The suspended members included Mr S R Bommai and Mr B V Kakkilaya, leaders of the Janata Party and the CPI respectively.

The suspended members left the House shouting slogans such as 'sack Ibrahim, down with Ibrahim'.

The session, which began yesterday is scheduled for one month.

THREAT OF STR

Our Special Correspondent adds:

AICC-U joint secretary Bhim Singh has threatened to launch a countrywide agitation in case the suspension of Mr Devraj Urs and others from the Karnataka Assembly was not withdrawn.

In a statement, Mr Bhim Singh decried the undemocratic and illegal methods adopted by Chief Minister Gundu Rao for continuing in office. He said by shielding his Cabinet colleagues from the clutches of law, Mr Gundu Rao had given enough evidence that he himself was a party to the incident mentioned in the FIR lodged against "a Minister in Bangalore."

CSO: 4229/7091

ELECTION COMMISSIONER: POLLING BOOTHS PERMANENT

New Delhi: PATRIOT in English 24 Jun 81 p 5

[Text]

SRINAGAR June 23 (UNI).

CHIEF Election Commissioner S L Shakti has said fixed permanent polling booths were being set up throughout the country, to facilitate polling at future elections.

Speaking to newsmen here yesterday, Mr Shakti said such booths would also be set up in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said hitherto it had been the practice to compile electoral rolls first, followed by the process of setting up polling booths.

The new system will eliminate complaints from different political parties and other candidates regarding the location of booths, he said.

Mr Shakti said the commission was faced with certain problems in the hilly and desert areas. The new system was aimed at reducing the number of polling booths in such areas, he added.

He said polling booths in the hilly and desert areas like Ladakh and Rajasthan would now be set up 5 km apart instead of 1.5 km as far.

However, in urban areas the distance between booths would continue to be 1.5 km as at present.

The amendment and relaxation in rules was necessary in hilly areas as there were many instances when booths were

established for even one or two persons. It had created problems, he felt.

Asked about the progress achieved in the introduction of identity card system for votes, Mr Shakti said it had already been introduced in Nagaland and Meghalaya. The system would be introduced in Assam soon after the 'foreigners' issue was resolved there.

Presently the Central Government was not in a position to bear the entire cost for this process.

Another innovation being introduced was the installation of an electronic computer system for counting. Presently the system was on trial, Mr Shakti said.

The introduction of the electronic system of counting he said, was estimated to cost about Rs 45 crores.

Mr Shakti said about four lakh such machines would be needed.

When these machines are introduced, there would be considerable reduction in election cost. Lesser number of persons would be required.

The entire cost on the development of these machines was expected to be recovered within the next 10 to 15 years, he said.

Such electronic devices could also be used for elections to local bodies as well, he added.

PROBLEMS OF NORTHEAST ADMINISTRATION EXAMINED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 2 Jul 81 p 8

[Article by Satis K. Kakati: "Northeast Mosaid: One Governor Will Not Do"]

[Text]

TILL 1963, the North-eastern region comprised three States, Assam, Manipur and Tripura. The erstwhile North Eastern Frontier Agency was placed in 1949 under the Union Government apparently for security reasons and administered by the Governor of Assam on behalf of the President. Originally it was clearly stipulated in the Constitution that in due course NEFA, mentioned in Part B Tribal Areas, would be integrated in Assam. Thus, notionally this area was conceived as part of Assam. In the 1960s, a merger of NEFA with Assam seemed almost imminent.

But in the wake of subsequent developments resulting in the separation of the Naga Hills district from Assam and its formation as a separate State, and the Khasi-Jaintia Hills and the Garo Hills districts also being constituted as a State, and the Mizoram district becoming a Union Territory—all these under the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganization) Act, 1971—NEFA too was declared a Union Territory with a new name, Arunachal Pradesh. In the process Assam was not only reduced in size and population, even NEFA's notional existence as part of Assam came to an end. Left to itself, Arunachal Pradesh would have in all probability joined Assam later.

Manipur and Tripura were the independence two Princely States and after their merger in the Union of India in 1949 were given Part 'C' status in the Constitution and placed under a Chief Commissioner. However, in the Centre's scheme of things

under the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganization) Act, 1971, these two Part 'C' States became Union Territories with a Lt. Governor each. While Manipur, Tripura and Nagaland were setting the pace in the race for full Statehood, the demand of the All Party Hill Leaders' Conference gained momentum and it was difficult for the Centre to reject its claim for a separate Hill State.

So, on April 2, 1970, the Khasi-Jaintia Hills and the Garo Hills, two out of the five Hill districts of Assam, were given "autonomous" status. This arrangement however, did not work for long and under the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganization) Act 1971, (which revoked the Assam Reorganization (Meghalaya) Act, 1969), that had conferred the earlier "autonomous" status to the two Hill areas, Meghalaya became a full-fledged State on January 20, 1972. Mizoram's demand for full Statehood which is being advocated by all the political parties will probably be conceded before long. Arunachal is also likely to become a full State.

QUIET REGION

In the process of the reorganization of the North-Eastern region which is 1,50,517 sq. km. in area and has a population of about 20 million, the region has been divided into five full-fledged States—Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya—and two Union Territories, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. While the Centre appointed two Lt. Governors for the two

Union Territories as soon as they came into being the idea of entrusting each of the five States to a Governor did not occur to the Union Government, nor did the Governments of these States consider the issue to be of any consequence, perhaps treating the issue as an ad hoc arrangement.

Maybe, the policy-makers in the North Block regarded the region as absolutely quiet, its people docile and politically inarticulate—an outlook that had also guided the Britishers and made them formulate the closed door policy for this sensitive area and put greater accent on guarding it against foreign influences rather than on looking after its economic development.

Events of the last two decades have however, revealed that the region is neither placid nor suffers from political inertia; on the contrary it is a problem area. Conflicts of ethnic interests, language disturbances, border disputes, the hillmen's suspicion of the "plains people" as exploiters who had diverted the Central grants meant for the tribal areas and now the "foreign national" issue have plagued the region to an extent which the Centre did not anticipate and is perhaps still not adequately aware of even now.

The experiment of setting up tiny and financially unviable States carved out of Assam has not succeeded. Some of the issues pertaining to the region have currently acquired such a dimension that their solution has become almost unattainable. Had the Governor been in a position

to give undivided attention to them and tender appropriate advice to the Ministries in the States, the situation would perhaps have been different, though it would be too simplistic to say that appointment of separate Governors would have ipso facto led to a solution of the problems or lessened their intensity.

PRIMUS INTER PARES

The first Governor of Assam was Sir Akbar Hydari, who assumed office on May 4, 1947, but died on December 28, 1948. Then Mr Visnu Sahay became Governor. With Nagaland's emergence as a separate State on December 1, 1963, Mr Sahay was made Governor of the new State as well. At the time nobody had even remotely any idea that this arrangement would continue for so long and, in the meantime, three more States would be set up in the region, all with problems of their own, demanding the attention of leaders both at the national and State levels.

The Governors of the States elsewhere in the country are of equal status. However, the status of the common Governor for the North-Eastern States is, to use a well-known cliché, more equal not only in theory but also in practice because the responsibility for maintaining law and order in Nagaland is also vested in the Governor. But much of his time is lost in shuttling between the five States capitals, apart from his visit to New Delhi. These trips, mostly by helicopters, have become more frequent recently because of Ministerial instability in one State or another. Apart from the physical and mental strain that a common Governor has to endure, he also has to face embarrassing issues such as inter-State boundary disputes. How Mr L. P. Singh, the present incumbent, had to gloss over the census incidents along the Assam-Nagaland border relating to the Dongri Forest Reserves in his speeches before the budget sessions of the Assam and Nagaland Assemblies in 1969 can be better imagined than described. In fact the common Governor has become almost a split personality.

When one of the States is placed under President's Rule, the Governor's workload becomes too much for one man, barely leaving him any time and energy for the affairs of the

other four States. It is not surprising that Mr Singh once expressed his desire to be relieved of his duties but he has continued in office although on January 20 he left for Delhi after the Governor-designate who was to succeed him was selected. But Mr Singh had to return to his post under unavoidable circumstances.

The reason behind the Centre's disinclination to change the present method of appointing Governor or Governors for the North-Eastern States is difficult to understand. In 1979, the Chief Ministers of the five States at a meeting in Gauhati unanimously expressed themselves in favour of separate Governors for the five States. The Centre was told accordingly. In February, the demand was reiterated before the Prime Minister during her visit to Dimapur. Naturally, the Chief Ministers were expecting that North Block would be responsive to the demand but to the amazement of all, the Centre named a "common" Governor recently to succeed Mr Singh. However, the Governor-designate died before he could take charge. Whether the Centre will continue the present system or appoint a separate Governor at least for Assam is anybody's guess.

But what is the difficulty in appointing separate Governors for the five States in the North-Eastern region? Certainly, there is no constitutional bar to it. The argument that separate Governors would entail greater expenditure is untenable for all the paraphernalia associated with Governors such as their secretariat ADCs and other staff, Raj Bhavans, discretionary allowances, cars etc. exist in Shillong, Gauhati, Kohima, Imphal and Agartala any way. On the other hand, the money spent on ferrying the Governor from one State capital to another by helicopter can be avoided if the existing system of having a common Governor is discarded.

The only argument that may be advanced in support of a common Governor is the setting up of the North-Eastern Council about a decade ago for preparing and implementing inter-State projects for economic regeneration of the region and for harnessing its abundant natural resources. But this is not a valid argument. None of the North-Eastern States wanted to touch the NEC with a pair of tongs

when Mr Singh, as the Union Home Secretary, authored the draft Bill that sought to make the NEC an outgrowth limb of the Union Government armed with executive powers.

However, in view of the very strong opposition from the State Governments, some of which saw in the draft Bill the germ of a super government to bypass the Ministers in the five States and two Union Territories, the Centre diluted its provisions and finally the NEC was made into an advisory body. Even so, Nagaland at first did not join it while the other constituents do not seem to take much interest in its deliberations. In any case, apart from the utility or otherwise of the NEC, a way out of the difficulty about its chairmanship in the event of separate Governors being appointed can be evolved by amending the NFC Act to provide for a vice-chairman or a working chairman. The Governors of the States might be asked to preside over the NEC meetings by rotation.

NO RATIONALE

There is also the question of the sentiments of the people of the North-Eastern region. If Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, though they constituted East Punjab after the partition, can have separate Governors, there is no rationale for appointing a common Governor for the North-Eastern States. In any case the people of "truncated" Assam feel strongly that this system has been maintained because the authorities in New Delhi seem to lack proper perception of the problems of the region and the sentiments of the people.

It is about time the Prime Minister and her advisers in North Block did away with the 16-year-old practice of appointing a common Governor for the North-Eastern States. It is likely that the beneficiary will be the Centre itself. At present it is apparent that the common Governor is not in a position to tender reports to the Centre about the various States in the region without some degree of inhibition; this is because he has to bear in mind that he must not hurt the sentiments of any of the concerned Chief Ministers. If there is a Governor for each of the five States, he will not have such inhibitions and the Centre will be able to obtain a clearer picture of the problems facing this frontier region.

MANAGER REPORTS PRODUCTION AT NEW ONGC FIELDS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 2 Jul 81 p 11

[Text] Baroda, July 1--The Oil and Natural Gas Commission has begun commercial exploitation of two small structures discovered recently near Ankleshwar, while production from a third one is expected to begin within a year, reports UNI.

ONGC's general manager, Western region, Mr A. K. Gupta, said that the three new fields--lay just 20 km south-west of Ankleshwar. While 250 tons of oil was being produced daily at Motwan, Sisodra accounts for 150,000 cubic metres of gas a day, he said.

With another promising structure found at Dahej, near Broach, some months ago, the oil and gas potential of south Gujarat continued to be very promising, Mr Gupta said. At the same time, production at the fast-depleting Ankleshwar oil fields had been put down to two million tons a year as part of a phased programme to cut down production there.

Mr Gupta said that in one year, production in the Ankleshwar fields would be cut down to 1.4 million tons and it would be gradually brought down to one million tons later.

Since oil from Ankleshwar was found suitable for the plants of the Indian Petrochemicals Corporation a public sector undertaking here, it was essential to prolong the life of the field as long as possible, he said. Oil found at Motwan was of similar high quality with low specific gravity, he said.

Meanwhile production from the Mehsana project in north Gujarat has been raised to about 1.6 million tons a year, bringing the total production of the western region to 3.6 million tons a year, Mr Gupta added.

CSO: 4220/7172

ARUNACHAL PRADESH SPEAKER ASKS BORDER SECURITY MEASURES

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 2 Jul 81 p 9

[Text] Gauhati, July 1--The Arunachal Pradesh Assembly Speaker, Mr T. L. Rajkumar, has stressed the need for strong security measures along the Tirap-Burma border of the Union Territory with a view to thwarting the underground Naga and Manipur activities, report UNI and PTI.

Mr Ramkumar told reporters last evening that the Manipuri extremists were active in the border areas and were trying to contact the Muiva-Isac group of underground Nagas at the Arkan hills in Burma through the Tirap border.

Recently six Manipuri extremists were caught by the villagers of Tirap district at a place about 5 km from Khonsa, the district headquarters, and handed over to the police. Valuable documents and foreign made firearms, explosives and ammunition were recovered from them.

Extremists from Manipur, aided by some foreign countries, had become increasingly active in certain parts of the north-eastern region, Mr Rajkumar alleged.

He said the Union Territory, with assistance from the Centre, should step up security measures in Tirap district which was used by extremists from Manipur and Nagaland as a corridor for slipping over to their rendezvous in Burma.

The people of Tirap district were panicky because of the inadequate security measures in the area, the Speaker said.

Mr Rajkumar, also expressed the hope that the current round of talks between the Assam agitation leaders and the Centre would result in a permanent solution to the foreign nationals problem.

He said Arunachal Pradesh and other areas of the north-eastern region had been seriously affected during the protracted agitation in Assam.

He felt that unless peace and normal conditions were restored in Assam, the region would continue to suffer. The Speaker appealed to the Centre and Assam agitation leaders to find out a negotiated solution on a "give and take" basis in the larger interest of the region and the country.

He further said the local people of Tirap district were outnumbered by Chakma refugees from Bangladesh. In the near future the Chakma refugee problem might create serious problems.

He urged the Centre to take steps to shift the Chakmas to other places in the country and settle them.

The Speaker said that though the Chakmas had no voting rights now, but in course of time, a problem might arise, when there would be demand for constitutional and political rights.

CSO: 4220/7172

INDIA

HOME MINISTER: DELHI AWARE OF PUNJAB SEPARATES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Jul 81 p 8

[Text] Bhatinda, July 4 (PTI)--The Union Home Minister Zail Singh said that the Government was fully 'conscious of separatist and communal elements' who had lately become active in the border State of Punjab. He said that 'such anti-national activities will be curbed with an iron hand.'

Mr Zail Singh was addressing Congress-I workers at the railway station here yesterday on his way to his native village of Sundhiwan.

He refuted the Akali charge that the Government was interfering in Sikh religion.

Mr Zail Singh categorically denied that he headed any group in Congress-I and said that the party was working unitedly under the leadership of Mrs Gandhi.

Later, Mr Zail Singh told newsmen at his village that there were no differences with Punjab Chief Minister Darbara Singh. Being the Home Minister he had no time to indulge in party politics of States.

He urged the press not to indulge in irresponsible reporting causing hurdles in the smooth functioning of the Government.

CSO: 4220/7193

GANDHI ASKED TO HELP INDIANS LIVING IN ENCLAVES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Jun 81 p 5

[Text:]

Forward Bloc MP Amar Roy Pradhan has drawn the Prime Minister's attention to the plight of Indians living in the Indian enclaves in West Bengal surrounded by Bangladesh.

In a letter to Mrs Gandhi, Mr Roy Pradhan stated that the 68,000 Indians (this figure is available from the 1961 census since no census was made after that) living there were presently at the mercy of hoodlums, dacoits and anti-social elements.

There are more than a hundred Indian enclaves including Salbari, Dohalakhagrabari, Natoktaka, Chilahati, Bashkata covering an area of about 20 square miles as against Bangladesh's enclaves (Dahagram, Angarpota) of about 18 square miles.

According to Mr Roy Pradhan, "there is no Indian administration in these Indian enclaves."

Referring to recent reports that

the Indian Government had allowed Bangladesh officers and police officials to move into Bangladesh enclaves after crossing Indian territory for the purpose of census work for the Bangladeshi citizens. Mr Roy Pradhan requested Mrs Gandhi that before the Bangladesh officers and police officials were allowed to move into the Bangladesh enclaves through the Indian territory she should try to get Bangladesh's approval to allow Indian officers and police officials to do similar census work in the Indian enclaves by crossing Bangladesh territory.

"I would like to point out that there has been no census work in the Indian enclaves since 1961 although the Government of India had allowed the Bangladesh Government to do the census in their enclaves surrounded by Indian enclaves surrounded by Indian territory even in 1961," he added.

CSO: 4223/2083

AGRICULTURE MINISTER BLAMED FOR FOOD POLICY 'FAILURE'

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Jul 81 p 9

[Text]

JAIPUR, July 9. —The Bharatiya Janata Party president, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, today demanded the resignation of the Union Food and Agriculture Minister, Rao Birendra Singh, for his "failure" to manage the food policy. "We have been brought to a stage where on the one hand there is a claim of a bumper crop and on the other we are importing foodgrain," he said at a Press conference here.

The Government had failed on all the three fronts: procurement, storage and distribution of foodgrains. While the procurement of foodgrain was short of target, the Government was pursuing a policy which benefited neither the producer nor the consumer, Mr Vajpayee said. An example of mismanagement, quoted by Mr Vajpayee, was that about 23 million tonnes of pulses purchased during the last five years had lying unused in FCI godowns.

He maintained that there was no food shortage in the country. Artificial shortages had been created by food rationing, which included restriction on the movement of grain. He warned the Government that if it did not correct its food policy greater trouble could follow next year when a global shortage of foodgrain was expected.

Mr Vajpayee answered a wide range of questions, national as well as international. About the racial riots in Britain he said that since the Tory Government came to power in the U.K., racist groups had become emboldened and they enjoyed indirect support of certain elements in the ruling party. But he hastened to add that "by and large" people in Britain were committed to the concept of a multi-racial society. He demanded changes in the recently-passed Nationality Bill of Britain.

The former Foreign Minister welcomed the process of normalisation of relations between India and China. About the visit of Mr Narasimha Rao to Pakistan, he said there was no need for India to agree to the inclusion in the joint declaration a reference to the right of Pakistan to acquire arms in self-defence.

'TIMES' REPORTER INTERVIEWS FINANCE MINISTER

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Jul 81 p 9

[Article by T. E. R. Simhan: "Grain Deficit May Force Import"]

[Text]

AHMEDABAD, July 4

THE Centre may not hesitate to import foodgrains to meet domestic deficit, if any, in the current year.

A hint to this effect was given by the Union finance minister, Mr. Venkataraman, in an exclusive interview with this reporter during his just-ended visit to the city.

Mr. Venkataraman was asked whether the Centre would think of importing foodgrains in view of the sluggish procurement of wheat etc., by the official agencies. "We will certainly think about that and, if necessary, we will import too", was his quick answer.

According to present indications, the procurement drive this year had not yet picked up to the level anticipated. Thus, perhaps, prompted the prime minister to visit recently some major wheat producing centres, like Punjab, to give boost to the procurement drive there.

Despite her visit, the Central agencies, according to available evidence, have not been able to procure more than seven million tonnes. The total wheat production was estimated to be around 16 million tonnes. Incidentally, last year which was a drought year, the procurement of wheat was 3.8 million tonnes.

On top of this inadequate rate of procurement done so far, the existing stock is also fast depleting since the Centre had to pump every month nearly one million tonnes of wheat for public distribution through fair price shops.

The kharif production will arrive in the market only after four or five months.

Answering another question, the minister denied there was any move to reorganise the nationalised banks into five regional groups as was being done

in the case of LIC. He dismissed the question saying, "It is all kite-flying by the press."

At the same time, he warned that strong measures would be taken against those indulging in indiscipline in the banking sector.

He was particularly irked by the present agitation by class IV employees in the Reserve Bank demanding inter alia reservation of some percentage of posts for their kith and kin. "How can you tolerate this kind of caste-based demand?" he said, and added, "Why should a son of class IV employee remain a peon like his father or a bhangi's son a bhangi. Can't they aspire for better positions in life?"

Mr. Venkataraman regretted that the national press was not adequately taking cognizance of these types of undesirable demands by the so-called trade unionists. The minister denied charges that investment in the country was not picking up. "In that case you would not find over-subscription to the recently floated bonds by companies", he countered.

He also denied that the capital-output ratio was on the increase. But he concurred that banks credit to government sector (including by the RBI) was increasing. The reason for this, according to him, was due to the states' dependence on overdrafts. Another reason could also be increased government expenditure, he said.

It may be mentioned that as against the total credit of Rs. 3,840 crores in 1979-80 to the government by the RBI and other banks, the year 1980-81 saw the amount reaching the level of Rs. 5,269 crores.

He said in reply to a question that the country might be able to stop its oil imports by the end of the sixth plan if the present tempo of oil production on the Bombay High continued.

INDIA

DELHI ENTERS MARKET FOR LARGE GRAIN IMPORTS

Washington Report

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Jul 81 p 1

[Article by J. N. Parimoo]

[Text] Washington, July 7.

After more than four years of self-sufficiency, India has once again decided to go in for large foodgrain imports.

India's food secretary, Mr. Gangopadhyaya, who has been here for over a week, decided on Sunday to enter the market for nearly four million tonnes of wheat.

Telex messages have been sent to 47 leading American exporters to send in their quotations. The Indian Supply Mission has been monitoring the price trends of the American grain market and the present moment is considered appropriate for purchases because wheat prices are ruling at a reasonably low level.

The Soviet Union has not come in for any large purchases even though the grain embargo was lifted nearly two months ago. Similarly, China, another potential big buyer of American foodgrains, has not made any purchases yet. The prices are fluctuating around dollars 150 a tonne, a level reasonably lower than the peak of dollar 220, a tonne that had been reached some months ago.

The Indian government will have to make a choice between the Californian white wheat and the red variety of wheat that comes from the midwest. A mix of the two varieties may be chosen, depending on the price offers, made by the American exporters.

Record Food Output

The decision of the government of India to go in for imports, comes surprisingly in a year and at a time when food production reached an all-time high of 134 million tonnes which is two million tonnes higher than the previous record of 132 million tonnes reached in 1978. It is believed here that either the crop estimates have been unrealistic and exaggerated or there has been large-scale cornering of wheat.

In serious disproportion to the production estimates, wheat procurement in India has been far below the plan targets. Some political parties in the northern states have been asking the farmers not to sell wheat to the government at the procurement price, which they consider to be uneconomic. There has been a spurt in the open market wheat prices and this has driven an increasingly large number of urban consumers to the public distribution system, generating a heavy demand pressure on the system.

It is hoped that the import of wheat will, on the one hand, bridge the gap between the falling government stock, and the increasing urban demand on public distribution and, on the other, induce wholesale foodgrain dealers to disgorge their cornered stocks.

The decision to import foodgrains comes painfully at a time when the country's foreign exchange position is already under heavy strain. Imports have been growing at a much faster rate than exports and the proportion of imports financed by exports has fallen significantly. There is a sharp deterioration in terms of trade and, what is worse, there have been supply shortfalls in areas like cement, steel and fertiliser, resulting in increased import of these items. This has created a balance of payments gap.

The need to import wheat is actually a hangover of the drought in 1979-80. As a result of a sharp fall in production in that year, there was heavy pressure on the buffer stock which stood at 17.4 million tonnes in the beginning of 1980 and which got depleted by almost six million tonnes in the course of 1980.

Wheat Procurement Situation Told

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Jul 81 p 5

[Text] New Delhi, July 6.

With the onset of the monsoon, wheat arrivals in mandis have declined sharply which clearly indicates that the official expectation of achieving even the revised lower procurement target may be belied.

Although the government had not announced officially the revised procurement target of wheat this year, it was believed in official circles that it might be possible to exceed seven million tonnes keeping in view the Prime Minister's directive to the rabi states to make an all-out effort to hit the procurement targets.

A senior official told this reporter, "if we touch seven million tonnes, we will be lucky indeed". But judging from the trend of market arrivals which have come down to about 3,000 tonnes a day, it appears that it might be difficult to exceed even 6.5 million tonnes.

Many Reasons

Numerous reasons are being offered for the lower level of wheat procurement. It is pointed out that the major wheat growing states like Punjab and Haryana had revised their production estimates downward, may be to cover their lapses on

procurement front. The most important factor responsible for lower procurement is the wide gap between the procurement price and the open market prices. Against the official procurement price of Rs. 130 per quintal, open market prices range between Rs. 150 and Rs. 300.

Inquiries here show that despite restriction on stock holdings, a large quantity of wheat has been cornered this year by the trade and so also the consumers.

Fearing that the prices of wheat would go up later in the year, consumers in various states had bought their annual requirement at this time when the prices are comparatively low. This is apparent from the fact that this year there has been a brisk sale at storage bins, trade sources concede.

To replenish its inventory of wheat, which had declined sharply on account of massive offtake last year, the government had made elaborate arrangements for procurement. Apart from opening additional centres for procurement, the official agencies, notably the Food Corporation of India, had made special arrangements for prompt payment to cultivators. As many as 400 additional bank branches were pushed into service to ensure that the cultivator realises his dues within 48 hours.

For financing the FCI food operation, which is the ultimate repository of foodgrains in the country, the government had sanctioned to it the cash credit limit of Rs. 1.50 crores this year. The Reserve Bank of India had constituted a consortium of 35 banks, inclusive of seven foreign banks, to meet the credit requirements of the FCI. Between April and June, FCI had utilized Rs. 950 crores.

But despite this excellent planning, the fact remains that actual procurement is going to be significantly lower than the ambitious target of 9.5 million tonnes.

The lower level of procurement is not unduly worrying the policy makers. It is stated that with the existing inventory of around 14 million tonnes, the demand for foodgrains from the states, including the flour mills, can be fully met.

Official circles are also optimistic that the prices of wheat are not likely to increase significantly since open market availability this year will be far better than last year. Bright kharif crop prospects also seem to have contributed to official optimism.

In support of their argument, official circles point out that a declining trend is already discerning in the offtake of foodgrains this year. Between January and May, the total offtake from the central pool is estimated at 4.6 million tonnes during the corresponding period last year. Even the chronic deficit states like West Bengal and Kerala are now lifting less stocks.

Agriculture ministry sources assert that in spite of the fact that the total inventory of foodgrains is lower this year, the country will have no difficulty on the food front.

REPORTER CRITICIZES GRAIN DEAL 'SECRECY'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, July 8.

Union agriculture ministry officials maintain a stony silence over reports that India is buying two million tonnes of wheat in the U.S.

Persistent inquiries by newsmen failed to get any response from Krishi Bhavan. The agriculture minister was not available in his office or residence. Even those of the senior officials who were in office refused to speak.

The personal staff of the food secretary, who is in Washington negotiating the deal, even sought to mislead correspondents about his whereabouts. They told the information officer (agriculture) in the Press Information Bureau (P.I.B.) that the secretary was in Calcutta.

If silence is half consent, as the proverb goes, the ministry's behaviour can be taken to confirm the report in this newspaper.

But this kind of secrecy and attempts at imparting misinformation seem unnecessary and can only damage the government's credibility further.

Thousands of viewers who watched the agriculture minister's television interview last Friday must have been aghast at today's reports.

On television the minister volunteered the information that the government would not hesitate to import foodgrains, if necessary, to keep down prices.

Asked if this was a serious proposal or a case of loud thinking, he replied: "Loud thinking".

The remark was made at a time when the food secretary was already in the US sounding American wheat exporters. The government's decision to import wheat, it is obvious, had been made much before the agriculture minister appeared on the television.

This is, of course, not the first instance of its kind in which things are being done in a hush-hush manner in the erroneous belief that it serves the national interest. Only a few days ago, the food secretary assured the public in a

conversation with correspondents that the sugar stock position was comfortable and there would be no need for imports.

At the time he was making this boastful claim, a decision to import 200,000 tonnes of sugar had already been taken and the news duly appeared a couple of days later.

There may be some justification for secrecy over purchases abroad on the plea that advance information may lead to hike in prices. But two points need to be stressed here. First, the quantities involved in our deals are so small in relation to international purchases in the American market that fears of an artificial rise in prices appear to be unwarranted.

Secondly, international exporters are shrewd enough to know our need for imports in advance.

The official secrecy can, therefore, only fool the public at home.

CSO: 4210/7351

WHEAT PROCUREMENT NEWS 'NO CAUSE FOR ALARM'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Jul 81 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text] The news that the procurement of wheat is unlikely to exceed seven million tonnes this year against the 9.5 million tonnes that the government had hoped for is no cause for alarm. The reason for the shortfall is not, as the Haryana and Punjab governments are claiming, that their initial estimates of the wheat harvest were wrong. An analysis of satellite photographs has confirmed that the wheat crop was in excess of 36 million tonnes. Nor can the blame be placed entirely on the outbreak of Karnal bunt in some areas. The most likely explanation, as an analysis of market arrivals and wheat procurement from 1968 to 1978 will reveal, is that procurement tends to take off only in the /second/ [in italics] year after a bad harvest and not in the first. Every bad harvest causes a major drawing down of stocks, not only of those held by private traders, but more importantly by the farmers themselves. When the next crop comes in, particularly if it is a good one, the first priority of the farmers is to refill their grain bins. Only then do they attempt to meet the needs of the market. The most unambiguous recent example of such behaviour was furnished by the procurement in 1977-78, the first good year after the agricultural setback of 1976-77. While the total output of foodgrains went up from 112 million to 126 million tonnes, the procurement of wheat rose from 5.2 million tonnes to only 5.5 million tonnes, and that of paddy from 4.4 million to 4.8 million tonnes. Nor has the role of private traders in denying supplies to the government agencies this year been insignificant for they have descended on Punjab and Haryana from all over the country and bought huge quantities of good quality wheat at Rs. 150 to Rs. 180 per quintal straight from the farmers' threshing floors.

This is not altogether a bad thing. The greater availability of cereals in the villages, and the fact that more is being sold in the towns through private channels, is being reflected in a sharp drop in the offtake from the public distribution system this year. This had shot up from 11.7 million tonnes in 1979 to nearly 15 million tonnes in 1980. It has dropped sharply once again to 4.6 million tonnes for the first five months of this year, against 6.5 million tonnes in the corresponding period last year. With another good monsoon setting in, there is every reason to expect the total purchases from the ration and fair price shops not to exceed 11.5 to 12 million tonnes this year. Since the FCI was also able to procure a total of nearly five million tonnes of rice, the current year's procurement of the two major cereals will safely meet, and may even marginally exceed, the demands on the public distribution system. There is thus no danger of any further depletion of the country's grain stocks on this account. The most that will be needed is about 1.5 to 2 million tonnes for the food-for-work program.

CSO: 2207251

INDUSTRY MINISTRY SUBMITS NEW POLICY STATEMENT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 23 Jun 81 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, June 22 (UND).

A THREE-pronged strategy of preventing sickness in mills, quick rehabilitation of units that go sick and an early decision on the future of such units has been outlined by the industry ministry in a new comprehensive policy statement submitted to the Union cabinet.

The policy paper has been recommended for scrutiny by a three-member cabinet committee comprising the finance minister, the commerce minister and the minister in-charge of industry.

A far-reaching recommendation made by the ministry is that units employing over 1,000 people or having an investment of 2 crores or above in fixed assets should be nationalised, where the Reserve Bank, the financial institutions or the state governments are unable to contain the growing sickness in such units.

This will, however, be subject to three considerations: the line of production is critical to the economy; the unit has been functioning as a model unit with large ancillary linkages; and sickness would cause substantial dislocation and unemployment in the region or is so calibrated that it is possible to provide alternative jobs in the workup in the foreseeable future.

NON-VIABLE UNIT

The ministry has, however, cautioned that it would not be desirable to nationalise a unit which is inherently unviable. It would, therefore, be necessary for the government to make a decision on the viability of the unit before a decision is taken on its nationalisation.

Regarding proposals received from the state governments, the policy paper says the appropriate *pramana* (standards) of a state government is its receipt of nationalised industrial undertakings under its legislative powers. The department of industrial development will consider the takeover of the management for a maximum period of six months, during which the formalities connected with nationalisation should be completed.

For units in which the management has already been taken over under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act of 1951, the department of industrial development will request the administrative ministries to take a final decision within a period of six months whether to nationalise the unit or denotify the management at the end of the period. Alternatively, the administrative ministries can consider the possibility of a private sector unit taking over the sick unit, either through amalgamation or by purchase.

52 UNITS

According to the ministry, there are at present 52 industrial undertakings whose management has been taken over. Sixteen have been taken over for over five years, the maximum period being nine years. Except for three units, the remaining continue to be sick.

The management of another 16 units has been taken over for periods between three and five years. Ten of these showed working surpluses in 1979-80, nine of them being in the textiles group. The rest are in the sick category.

The management of the remaining 20 units has been taken over for periods of less than three years. Here, except for two units which made profits in 1979-80, others continue to be sick. In other words, out of 52 units, only 15 showed positive results during 1979-80.

The ministry says that it has been the general experience that after the takeover of the management, the administrative ministries or authorised persons have not taken any positive steps towards rehabilitation.

FOUR OPTIONS

The options generally open are: (1) Denotification of management followed by liquidation of the company; (2) Sale of the undertaking as a mining concern; (3) Reconstruction of the unit; (4) Takeover by the government; (5) To nationalise the undertaking either through acquisition of assets or of shares.

The ministry points out that these are major corrective options. Any attempt to convert the management into a unit of control into liquidation is resisted by the workers of the undertaking and also the state governments concerned. As regards reconstruction, there has not been a single case where this has been effectively implemented. Further it requires to be approved by the high courts, controlled which then take over. Inter-cad parties also block reconstruction through recourse to the courts in India. Therefore nationalisation is the only remaining option.

The ministry has also commented on the delay caused by immediate delays in making the decision for nationalisation which has time ultimately involved. Because there is a considerable time interval between the takeover of the management and the decision to nationalise, the result is that government has to finally take over run-down assets at a much higher value. The financial institutions demand full satisfaction though at the time of the takeover, they might have undertaken to meet the financial needs at concessional terms. State governments also have reluctance to take up financial responsibility involved in nationalisation.

The ministry argues that the resources that are ploughed into undertakings by banks, the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India or the state governments after the takeover of the management could be not utilised.

STRAIGHT ACQUISITION

At the 10th meeting, the Joint Issues Committee decided it will have been the straight acquisition straightway when in fact the undertaking is nationalised ultimately.

Referring to preventive action that can be taken against sickness, the ministry has suggested a number of measures.

Banks and financial institutions should be advised to implement the measures suggested for a long time, to enable them to take corrective action against ailing unit.

As sickness banks or financial institutions are aware of definite signs of sickness, they can take corrective action should it be based on a definite basis. Information by the banks and financial institutions.

Financial institutions should be

immediately involved in those units which are showing signs of sickness.

But the ministry pointed out that in particular, the Industrial Development Bank of India should consider the feasibility of creating a cadre of professionals who should be entrusted with the management and direction of such units in which the financial institutions have already made substantial investments.

These institutions should promptly bring to the notice of the Central government or the state government concerned cases where liquidation, financial strength and ways and means structural changes are required. The department of industrial development should take up the matter with the Central ministries or the state governments concerned.

TIMELY INFORMATION

Where the financial institutions and the banks apprehend that the sickness of the unit cannot be prevented, they should give timely information to the department of industrial development which will refer the matter to the administrative ministry. That ministry may in consultation with the department of industrial development decide whether the unit should be nationalised.

Where it is decided to nationalise, the management should be taken over for a maximum of six months. Such action will be after consulting with the members of ISIA, ISIA and ISIA in the IOR, keeping a view the principles of natural justice.

Where it is decided not to nationalise, banks and financial institutions should be informed immediately so that they may proceed to deal with the matter in accordance with normal banking procedures. The same procedure will be to be followed in respect of units where payments are received from state governments, workers' unions, members of parliament and others.

The industry ministry said that the administrative ministry also have a specific responsibility for the prevention and cure of sickness. They should play a pivotal role in monitoring sickness and co-ordinating action for the revival and rehabilitation of the sick unit.

Such ministries should also work out in the policy measures where required in relation to sickness, to be initiated in their charge which show signs of sickness.

PLAN ENVISAGES ACCELERATION IN ENERGY RESEARCH

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Jul 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, July 7.

A significant step-up in research and development activities in the field of new and renewable sources of energy is envisaged during the sixth plan period, according to a national paper.

The paper has been prepared by the newly appointed commission for additional sources of energy. It will be presented to the United Nations conference on new and renewable sources of energy to be held in Nairobi in August.

At present, more than 40 national laboratories, public sector undertakings, institutes of technology and universities are engaged in research and development programmes. Several hundred scientists and technologists are working on a variety of areas covering biogas, bioconversion, photovoltaic devices, solar thermal systems, windmills, hydrogen energy, batteries and battery-powered vehicles and integrated energy systems.

This infrastructure, says the paper, will be strengthened and support extended to competent research groups throughout the country.

While all problems pertaining to renewable energy utilisation will receive attention, priority will be given to (A) biogas production and utilisation at lower costs, (B) fast growing trees, petro and other energy crops, (C) solar thermal systems, (D) windmills for pumping water and lower power generation, (E) hydrogen production and storage, (F) electric vehicle development, (G) micro and mini hydel and low head hydel plants, and (H) ocean energy plants and technologies.

An amount of Rs. 400 million has been allocated in the period 1980 to 1985. In addition Rs. 100 million has been set apart for a project relating to magneto-hydrodynamic power generation and other new technologies based on coal. A separate allocation of Rs. 500 million has been made for schemes on fuel and farm forestry.

The government also proposes to promote wider utilisation of renewable energy systems through various incentives and subsidies. A provision of Rs. 500 million

has been made in the plan on subsidies and supporting facilities for the establishment of family biogas plants. Prospective owners of biogas plants also have access to loans from banks and other financial institutions.

A five-year project costing Rs. 120 million is already under way at the Central Electronics Limited to produce, on a pilot plant basis, solar cells with an aggregate capacity of one mw per year and to develop and demonstrate various applications, including pumping.

The national paper says that the efforts on research and development put in so far have resulted in the indigenous development of some renewable energy systems which have crossed the laboratory stage and are ready for large-scale demonstration and field evaluation.

CS01 4220/7749

INDIA

PLANNING COMMISSION ASSESSES LONG-TERM ENERGY PROSPECTS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Jul 81 p 5

[Text] The Planning Commission fears that if adequate investment in real terms does not take place on the energy supply industries, especially power and coal, "the long-term impact will be serious," reports UNI.

Power and coal availability can be expected to improve by the end of the sixth Plan, though power shortage will not disappear altogether, says a note prepared by the Planning Commission for the recent meeting of Consultative Committee of Parliament for the Planning Ministry.

Given the normal monsoons and barring unforeseen developments in West Asia, energy availability should not prove a constraint to growth during the sixth Plan period. The longer term prospect is, however, not equally bright, says the note.

India's transition to a new, less oil-dependent energy era would by no means be smooth and a great deal depends on international action to assist the countries of the third world.

As the power and coal industries are characterised by long gestation, the rigidities of the existing capital stock restraints change in the pattern of energy consumption. The impact of the energy strategy can, therefore, be felt only gradually and the five-year period is too short to expect any marked change in the energy scene.

Nearly 10,000 MW of new capacity is to be added during the sixth Plan accounting for 20 per cent of the total outlay. Improvements in performance of thermal power stations are also envisaged. The commission is hopeful that if the targets are achieved, with the exception of the northern region, there should be no power shortage in other parts of the country by the end of the sixth Plan.

The gap between demand and supply in the northern region can be bridged only during the seventh Plan period. In the intervening period there will be periodical shortages of power in other regions also. Shortages will have to be reduced by load staggering and inter-State transfer of power, the note has suggested.

It has been pointed out that even in the first year of the sixth Plan--1980-81 capacity addition was short of target by 30 per cent. Delays in equipment

delivery and inadequacies in the project management capabilities of the State electricity boards have been the main reasons for poor performance.

The note says that unless the implementing agencies and equipment manufacturers show a distinctly better performance, full achievement of the ambitious power programme will be in jeopardy.

CSO: 4220/7266

KERALA BLAMES CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FOR RICE SHORTAGE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Jul 81 p 14

[Text] Trivandrum, July 7.

THE chief minister, Mr. E. K. Nayanar, sought in the legislature today freedom from the Food Corporation of India to buy rice for Kerala from any part of the country.

This freedom would ensure adequate supply of rice to the ration card-holders. He and the minister for civil supplies, Mr. E. Chandrasekharan Nair, blamed the Union government for the inadequate supply of rice to maintain the food rationing system in the state.

The opposition, through an adjournment motion, indicted the state government for the failure on the food front. After the motion was disallowed, all the opposition parties walked out to register their protest against the food policy of the Marxist-led coalition.

The opposition members said that the weekly distribution of the rice ration had broken down in several parts of the state.

The Janata party leader, Mr. K. Chandrasekharan, said the breakdown of the rationing system was due to the contradictory directive issued by the minister and the civil supplies department. While the minister directed the ration shops to distribute the whole quantum of rice ration, the department directed the retail ration shop-keepers to lift only 75 per cent of the allotment. This left a large number of ration card-holders without their rice ration.

But according to the food minister, the failure of the Union government to honour its commitment to meet Kerala's shortage in rice caused the present situation.

The Food Corporation of India has a storage capacity of five lakhs tonnes of rice in Kerala. But the godowns had not been stored with sufficient quantity of rice. The delay in meeting the requirement of Kerala, which is facing a more than 50 per cent deficit in rice production is bound to create difficulties in rice distribution.

GOVT. ACCUSED OF FAILURE

The opposition members accused the state government for the failure in the food front. The Congress (I) opposition leader, Mr. K. Karunakaran, asked the government why it could not rush rice from Punjab to meet the shortage. If the FCI faced a transport delay, the state government should have offered to transport rice by road without delay, he added.

Mr. Chandrasekharan Nair countered the opposition charge by claiming that the "Maveli stores", opened by the civil supplies department, was offering rice at Rs. 2.65 a kg. The department was buying the rice from the open market. The public distribution system in Kerala could undertake this responsibility because rice is freely available in the open market in Tamil Nadu. In times of scarcity, this system would doubtlessly breakdown.

The chief minister's plea for freedom from the Food Corporation of India is to be viewed in the context of the scarcity of rice throughout the country. If the Union government's responsibility to feed the people of Kerala is allowed to be withdrawn, no government in Kerala could survive a period of food shortage.

DELHI ANNOUNCES SECOND TRANCHE OF BORROWING PROGRAM

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Jul 81 p 9

[Text] Bombay, July 7.

The government of India has announced the second tranche of its current year's market borrowing programme. Four cash-cum-conversion loans are being issued on July 21 for a total notified amount of Rs. 750 crores. The loans are: six per cent 1985 at par, 6.75 per cent 1991 at par, 7.5 per cent 2001 at par and eight per cent 2011 (second issue) at par.

Securities of the maturing 4.75 per cent 1981 and four per cent 1981 loans will be accepted for conversion at par.

Subscriptions will be received only on July 21 up to the close of banking hours.

The 4.75 per cent 1981 loan is maturing on July 21 having an outstanding amount of Rs. 125.85 crores and four per cent 1981 loan is maturing on July 24 having an outstanding amount of Rs. 70.97 crores.

Thus, with an excess ten per cent subscriptions over the notified amount that the government will retain, and taking into account the total maturities of Rs. 196.82 crores this month, the net subscriptions in the second tranche will amount to about Rs. 628 crores.

The yield pattern that was evolved at the time of the floatation of the first tranche on April 27 this year has been maintained.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has suspended the sales of several loans in its open market operations. It will now sell only four loans--the 6.25 per cent 1996, the 6.5 per cent 1997, the 7.25 per cent 1997 and the 6.75 per cent 2006. In its buying list, there are at present 24 loans. It has adjusted the buying prices of some of these loans marginally.

For 1981-82, the Union finance minister has budgeted for record market borrowings of Rs. 3,987 crores (gross) and Rs. 2,800.25 crores (net). Besides the two maturing loans this month, the five per cent national defence loan 1981 having an outstanding of Rs. 89.93 crores is to be repaid this year.

For 1980-81, gross market borrowings of Rs. 2,765 crores had been budgeted with net market borrowings of Rs. 2,499.66 crores. But the actual collections amounted to Rs. 2,868.88 crores (gross) and Rs. 2,603.54 crores (net).

In the current financial year so far, actual collections have amounted to Rs. 760 crores. In the first tranche subscriptions totalled Rs. 660 crores. Besides, on June 1, the government of India issued a fresh tranche of Rs. 100 crores of the eight per cent 2011 loan in favour of the RBI for release to captive investors subsequently.

After the completion of the second tranche on July 21, collections would amount to Rs. 1,385 crores (gross).

The loans are expected to evoke good response from captive investors like commercial banks, LIC and provident funds. The balance, if any, will as usual be taken up by the RBI on its own investment account, for release to the market later.

CSO: 4220/7249

STEEL AUTHORITY READY TO EXPORT PRODUCTS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Jul 81 p 5

[Text] The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is posed to export, for the first time, some of the categories of its production, reports PTI.

This is possible in view of a 32.5 per cent growth in the production of saleable steel in its plants in the last quarter and an anticipated upward trend in production during the coming months.

With improved production registered in the public sector steel plants since October last, domestic availability has been on the increase and atmosphere of scarcity is gradually disappearing resulting in a sobering effect on the domestic market, it is officially stated in New Delhi on Thursday.

At the end of the first quarter of the current financial year (April-June) SAIL plants have aggregated 12.53 lakh tonnes of saleable steel. As compared to the first quarter of the previous year--this production is 3.07 lakh tonnes more registering an increase of 32.5 per cent.

In the integrated steel plants the production has gone up to 443,000 tonnes last month as against 400,000 tonnes in April and 413,000 tonnes in May.

While the increase over the previous month's production is 30,000 tonnes, as compared to the production in June last year, it is to the tune of 1.14 lakh tonnes registering a growth of 34.8 per cent.

Bhilai, Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro improved upon the production in June last year by handsome margins.

With anticipated upward trend in production during the coming months also, SAIL may have to consider exporting some of the categories of its production so that out flow in foreign exchange in import of other categories is neutralised to some extent.

The increase would have been more but for the power restrictions faced during most part of April, May and early June in Bhilai Steel Plant located at Madhya Pradesh. Rourkela also faced some restrictions during this period.

Bokaro Steel Plant established new quarterly records in production of ingot steel. Steel ingot production during the first quarter of the current financial

year was a record 415,000 tonnes and saleable steel production was 338,000 tonnes also a new record for a quarter.

As compared to the production during the corresponding period of last financial year, the increase in production of saleable steel was to the tune of 1.82 lakh tonnes--116.7 per cent growth.

Durgapur Steel Plant registered a growth of 79.6 per cent at the end of the first quarter of the current financial year over the corresponding period of last year by producing 194,000 tonnes of saleable steel as against 108,000 tonnes produced during April-June, 1980.

By producing 240,000 tonnes of steel ingots in the first quarter the plant exceeded the corresponding production in the last financial year by 69,000 tonnes registering a growth of 40.4 per cent. This level of production in the first quarter has been achieved by the plant after a gap of two years, the release said.

Rourkela Steel Plant registered a growth of 29.1 per cent over the production of the first quarter of the last financial year by producing 231,000 tonnes of saleable steel produced during the first three months of the current financial year.

CSO: 4220/7181

BUILDING MATERIALS SHORTAGE ENDANGERS DAM PROJECTS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 Jul 81 p 9

[Article by G. K. Pandey]

[Text] New Delhi, July 9.

Serious shortfall in the supply of building materials, notably cement and steel, has thrown out of gear a large number of major and medium irrigation projects all over the country, it is learnt.

Construction of dams, barrages and the programme for modernisation of canals is behind schedule. Unless steps are taken immediately to rectify the position, it might not be possible to create the 14 million hectares irrigation potential target fixed for the sixth plan period.

The state governments, visibly upset by the shortcomings in the irrigation projects, are understood to have sought the Prime Minister's intervention for adequate allocations of cement and steel. They have also sent numerous representations to the ministry of irrigation for obtaining full quotas of cement and steel.

Enquiries from official circles show that there has been shortfall in the supply of cement and steel to the extent of 50 per cent. This would not only delay the completion of these schemes, it would also result in avoidable increases in the project costs. Besides, the agricultural production programmes, which are linked to the completion of these schemes, are bound to suffer. The impact of all these developments, it is stated, would be felt within the next two to three years.

It is amazing that irrigation projects which have been accorded a top priority in the sixth plan should be languishing for want of materials. The importance of irrigation development programmes could be judged from the fact that a massive allocation of over Rs. 12,000 crores has been made for major, medium, minor irrigation programmes and command area development programmes.

The national development council at its last meeting had endorsed the planning commission's view that irrigation projects should be accorded top priority for meeting the country's growing food requirements.

The irrigation ministry, which is keen on achieving the plan targets, is also perturbed over the slowing down of projects. Sources here point out that the problem is confined not only to the allocation of adequate quantities of building materials but also availability of wagons. The ministry is understood to have drawn the attention of the cabinet committee of infrastructure regarding the movement of materials to different locations. But latest reports from states are not indicative of any improvement.

Meanwhile, the irrigation ministry and the planning commission have drawn up a programme for bridging the gap between irrigation potential and its utilisation. Under this plan the water supply to users is expected to be rationalised. To accomplish this task the command area development programmes and modernisation of canals are being accelerated.

CSO: 4220/7259

MINISTER TELLS STEPS TO PROMOTE SMALLSCALE INDUSTRY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, July 9. The government is making efforts to increase the flow of institutional credit to the small-scale sector, according to Dr. Charanjit Chanana, minister of state for industry.

Dr. Chanana told the 35th meeting of the small-scale industries board today that the government proposed to introduce shortly a scheme for building up buffer stocks of essential raw materials.

A policy decision on providing automatic price preference up to 15 per cent and comprehensive legislation for the promotion of the small-scale sector were also under consideration.

The board was meeting after two and a half years, which appears to be an unduly long gap in view of the fact that the small-scale sector has been assigned an important role in the national economy.

Dr. Chanana referred to the government's endeavour to reverse the creation of artificial divisions between the large and small sectors and to promote the concept of economic federalism.

The investment limits of the small scale units, small ancillaries and tiny units had been raised to help genuine small-scale units in their modernisation.

It was proposed to initiate the concept of economic federalism through setting up of nucleus plants in industrially backward districts which would generate as many ancillaries and assist small and cottage units as possible.

Dr. Chanana said there had been some improvements in the supply of the basic raw materials. However, problems still remained with some categories of iron and steel, pig iron, aluminium, mutton tallow, paraffin wax, coke and coal.

The imports of certain categories of industrial raw materials and inputs required for the small scale sector had been liberalised. It was proposed to introduce a scheme of buffer stocks of essential raw materials. The National Small Industries Corporation would be the nodal agency for [as published]

Regarding the flow of institutional credit to small industries, Dr. Chanana said that a continuous watch on the volume of such credit was kept in consultation with the Reserve Bank and the department of banking.

It was felt that a final decision on the setting up of a separate development bank for the small industry could be taken after watching the operation of the proposed national bank for agriculture and rural development.

Dr. Chanana said that, in addition to indirect assistance provided through purchase programmes and infrastructural facilities, the question of direct marketing assistance had been under consideration for some time.

It was not the government's intention that such assistance programmes should detract from the primary responsibility of the entrepreneurs to market their products. However, it might be necessary to neutralise to some extent the disadvantage suffered by the small-scale units.

It was therefore, to be considered whether any scheme could be formulated to provide assistance to small units which came together collectively in the form of a consortium, association, registered society or co-operative which would undertake combined marketing operations.

CSO: 4220/7259

PROSPECTS OF MAHARASHTRA AUTUMN HARVEST IMPROVED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Jul 81 p 1

[Article by B. M. Purandare]

[Text] Pune: Following the near-adequate rains in almost all parts of Maharashtra, the kharif crops prospects which appeared obscure because of the weak monsoon till last week have now brightened.

Transplanting operations in paddy-growing areas and sowing activities in regions producing other cereals, pulses and oilseeds are in full swing all over the state, excepting in Nanded district in Marathwada region, where the monsoon is still to arrive in full swing.

The state government is concentrating on several measures to step up the output of pulses. Against last year's production target of 6.09 lakh tonnes, the kharif estimate is placed at 9.35 lakh tonnes.

Fertilisers have been provided in time to farmers raising pulses. In addition, packets of ryzobium culture are distributed to growers at 50 per cent subsidy. These packets contain bacteria which help increase the output of pulses. The government is also extending help in a big way to growers to protect their crop, besides offering subsidy to farmers cultivating pulses in non-traditional zones.

As for cereals--rice, jowar, bajra and others--the Planning Commission has set the target at 68.74 lakh tonnes for this season. State agricultural officials said they had fixed the targets higher--ten per cent--than those fixed by the Planning Commission.

Crop wise targets fixed by the Planning Commission are as follows: (Last year's kharif crop production figures are given in brackets)

Crop	Target In Lakh Tonnes
Rice	22.97 (22.61)
Jowar	34.07 (28.27)
Bajra	7.66 (7.52)
Other cereals	4.04 (4.00)

Areawise, the government has decided to bring additional acreage under paddy and high-yielding varieties of jowar, the staple food of Maharashtra. This

year, it has been decided to bring 10.73 lakh hectares under paddy against 9.13 lakh hectares last year.

Hybrid jowar crop will be raised over 19 lakh hectares against last year's 15 lakh hectares, and high-yielding variety of jowar on 3.10 lakh hectares against last year's 1.89 lakh hectares.

The target for the oilseed output has been fixed at 10.12 lakh tonnes against last year's estimated 8.74 lakh tonnes, cotton at 17.47 lakh bales and sugarcane at 228.23 lakh tonnes.

The sowing operations have got a fillip because of the revival of the monsoon, and if it continues at the present rate, Maharashtra will have a good agricultural year during 1981-82 with the total Kharif foodgrains production going up by nearly 10 lakh tonnes.

CSO: 4220/7251

PROSPECTS OF RAJASTHAN AUTUMN HARVEST REVIEWED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Jul 81 pp 1, 9

[Article by P. C. Gandhi]

[Text] Jaipur: Kharif sowing is not likely to be delayed in Rajasthan this year as almost all the districts have already experienced fairly heavy pre-monsoon showers.

However, because the soil is sandy and rocky, it is the interval between the showers rather than the intensity of rainfall which determines the prospects of the crop.

In the previous two years, one or two heavy to very heavy showers at the end of June raised the hopes of farmers sky high and then a continuous dry spell for the next six to eight weeks dashed their hopes to the ground.

Weather office authorities are keeping their fingers crossed but they are certainly optimistic about the behaviour of monsoon this year. Farmers in the state, by and large, are more hopeful than the officials who are totally dependent upon forecasts by the meteorological department.

If the quantity of hybrid variety seed being purchased by farmers is any indication, Kharif prospects seem to be much better this year than in the last year.

According to official statistics, hybrid variety seed for foodgrains sold last year was 2.726 million tonnes. This year, 3.565 million tonnes of seed has already been sent to various sale outlets--an increase of 30 per cent over last year.

The state government seems to have shifted the emphasis from larger areas to be brought under cultivation to the use of hybrid varieties of seeds in larger areas. Last year 928,000 hectares were brought under high-yielding varieties.

This year, it is proposed to have 1.575 million hectares under the high-yielding varieties--an increase of 69.6 per cent. But the total area under kharif crop this year may not exceed the 12 million hectares brought under cultivation last year.

Bajra is the main kharif crop in general in Rajasthan and in the western districts in particular the acreage under this crop this year shows a rise of 69.3 per

cent--from 786,000 hectares last year to 1.331 million hectares this year. The increase in the use of the hybrid variety of bajra seed is phenomenal--more than 400 per cent--from 6,248 quintals last year to 25,057 quintals this year.

Similar increases are recorded in the acreage and hybrid input in respect of jowar and maize.

The total quantity of seeds of all crops used throughout the state last year was 28,738 quintals. This is likely to go up to 57,930 quintals--an increase of 101.6 per cent.

Sugarcane area will increase by 8,000 hectares this year and last year's yield of 1.3 million tonnes will go up by almost 100 per cent.

Rajasthan farmers have a particular liking for oilseeds and the area under cultivation is likely to increase from 647,000 hectares last year to 865,000 hectares this year. Against the total yield of 127,000 tonnes of oilseeds last year, the target this year has been placed at 400,000 tonnes.

Rajasthan produced 2.726 million tonnes of food grains in the last kharif season. The target this year is 3.565 million tonnes--an increase of 30 per cent.

The state agriculture minister, Mrs. Kamla, comes from a farmer's family. She is downright realistic and has formulated a new policy in consultation with the farmers.

CSO: 4220/7248

HEAVY EARLY RAINS ENDANGER ORISSA AUTUMN HARVEST

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 Jul 81 pp 1, 13

[Article by N. K. Swami]

[Text] Bhubaneswar: Unusually heavy pre-monsoon rains during May followed, after a three-week-long interval, by the late arrival of the monsoon at the end of June have considerably hampered the seed broadcasting operations for the kharif crops in the low and medium lands in the coastal region of Orissa.

And, although broadcasting operations have been generally completed in the high lands in the interior which is almost entirely rain-fed, the outlook is not considered to be bright because the monsoon, arriving a fortnight late, has continued to be weak.

As a result, according to the states directorate of agriculture, the cultivators may be compelled to undertake raising of seedlings and transplanting them speedily on a wide scale over vast areas so that the transplanting operations might be completed in time.

Although transplantation from seed beds to the farms yields better crop, it is a costly operation which the Orissa farmers, nearly 80 per cent of whom are marginal cultivators, cannot afford to undertake. It requires engaging expensive agriculture labour on a large scale because on its completion simultaneously in the entire holding depends the yields. For this purpose as well as for the other inputs such as fertilisers, timely credit from the primary cooperative societies must be forthcoming which, unfortunately, is not assured. Agricultural experts are, therefore, not encouraging the adoption of the more rewarding transplantation method by the farmers on a wide scale, but propagating the direct seeding method in a more scientific manner.

Paddy, grown on 95 per cent of 46 lakh hectares under cereals in Kharif, is a predominant crop on which the state's economic wellbeing depends. But the yield has remained practically stagnant at ten quintals of rice per hectare during the last 20 years, in spite of the propagation of the use of high-yielding varieties, fertilisers and improved farm practices. The basic input, namely assured irrigation, is not available to about 80 per cent of the sown area which looks up to the heavens for properly spaced and distributed rains from June to October. If the monsoon fails the poor farmer will have to fall back on test relief works for a living until he tries his luck during the rabi season.

The Kharif season last year was a near normal one from the point of view of the monsoon's behaviour. The production of 41 lakh tonnes of rice, including ten lakh tonnes from high-yielding varieties, four lakh tonnes of other cereals and about 1.50 lakh tonnes of pulses, was admittedly more due to favourable weather conditions than to any special strategy devised by the authorities. The total foodgrains production of about 46 lakh tonnes had fallen short of the revised target by nearly five lakh tonnes because of the heavy damage done to the standing crops by the disastrous floods in the Mahanadi and the Vaitarani rivers during September.

During the last Kharif season, oilseeds production, mainly groundnut, had improved to four lakh tonnes from the base level figure of 3.7 lakh tonnes.

The fact that the consumption of chemical fertilisers had not picked up appreciably, in spite of the season being favourable, shows that the government's campaign has not succeeded. In fact, the coverage under high-yielding paddy varieties of ten lakh hectares was about three lakh hectares short of the target and the yield too was less than what was originally assumed on the basis of anticipated application of higher doses of fertilizers.

Kharif Target

The authorities attribute the shortfall in fertiliser offtake to the steep rise in its price. But the complaint generally heard from progressive farmers was that popular brands of fertilizers were not available at the sale counters of primary societies but in the open market at exorbitant prices.

The target of production of cereals during the current kharif season is fixed at 48.5 lakhs, including 43 lakhs tonnes of rice which is about eight per cent higher than the actual cereals production achieved during the last kharif season. The target set for pulses production is 1.60 lakh tonnes compared with 1.5 lakh tonnes actual and the target for oilseeds production is four lakh tonnes. The coverage under high-yielding varieties of cereals and pulses is proposed to be raised to 14 lakh hectares.

A highlight of the government food production strategy is what is called "the minimum yield guarantee programme". This was tried on 10,000 hectares of land during the last rabi season and the results were said to be encouraging. The paddy yield per hectare under this programme was more than 3.50 tonnes, demonstrating that with a proper package of cultural and management practices, the Orissa soil is capable of yielding at least twice the present production.

Encouraged by the results during the rabi season, the authorities proposed to cover two lakh hectares this season under the new programme. The participating farmers will be helped in obtaining timely credit from cooperative societies or commercial banks for buying fertilisers, pesticides and improved implements. Compact areas of 30 to 40 hectares will be selected to try out the guarantee yield scheme.

GANDHI TALKS TO HAJ PILGRIMS ON COMMUNAL PROBLEMS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Jul 81 p 5

[Text] New Delhi, July 6 (UNI).

The Prime Minister said today that communal problems, which had earlier been "well-controlled," had become alive during the Janata regime.

Stressing that communalism would do no good to the people, Mrs. Gandhi called for maintaining harmony and strengthening national unity.

Addressing a group of Haj pilgrims, who have undertaken the sacred tour on bicycles, she said, with specific reference to Kerala, that the different communities, including Christians and Muslims, had been living harmoniously for centuries there.

However, ever since the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) managed to set a foothold in the state, communal trouble had started there also, she said.

Cautioning against the machinations of such divisive forces, Mrs. Gandhi urged the people not to be carried away or misled by false propaganda.

Reiterating that the question before the nation was to maintain unity, Mrs. Gandhi lashed out at those interested in spreading divisive tendencies for political gain. The nation's foremost requirement, she noted, was peace.

The pilgrims began their Haj yatra on bicycles ten days ago and hope to return here after nine months.

She said that Urdu was the language of the whole nation. One of the policies of her government was to promote Urdu.

She wished the pilgrims a happy pilgrimage.

Speaking about ties with other countries, Mrs. Gandhi said that India had always wanted its neighbours to be strong and to achieve progress.

For any nation a weak neighbour was bad, she added. At the same time, she pointed out, if India was also strong and united it would do good to its neighbours.

She said India enjoyed friendly ties with all countries, especially with its neighbours.

Recalling her recent visit to Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, she said Indians belonging to different communities were happy in whatever vocation they were pursuing. She commended the contribution made by Indians working in the Gulf.

CSO: 4220/7248

ISRO PLANNING LIQUID FUEL TESTING FACILITY

Madras THE HINDU in English 6 Jul 81 p 7

[Text] Will the lion-tailed monkey come in the way of a prestigious project of the Indian Space Research Organisation? This "endangered species" seems to be the principal hurdle for the "liquid test facility" to come up in the range of the Mahendragiri hills on the Kanyakumari-Tirunelveli border.

This range is almost at the tail end of the Western Ghats at its southern tip, and forms part of the Ashambu hills which incidentally is being developed as a sanctuary for the lion-tailed monkey. According to the forest authorities, this area has a sizable number of these animals.

The area earmarked for setting up the test facility is in fact known by the name "Nallar Thittai," a place about six km away from the Mahendragiri hills, which itself is situated at a distance of about 15 km from the Kalakkad range, where the lion-tailed monkeys are reported to have been cited.

The authorities have gone ahead during the last few years using the name Mahendragiri Hills for the location of the project, and this 'misnomer,' is now causing problems.

A recent decision of the Union Government is that the utilisation of all forest areas for purposes other than forestry should receive concurrence from the Centre. Added to this is the importance attached to problems of environment and ecology. All these issues now require consideration at the highest level and clearance by the Prime Minister.

The ISRO sources explain that the liquid test facility is meant to develop a liquid fuel to be used in the space launch vehicles and to test the efficacy of the fuel. At present, the space vehicles of the ISRO are equipped to launch only a payload of 35 to 49 kg in weight and place them in orbit in an altitude of 400 to 800 km. These are only primary vehicles and their objectives are also limited.

The ultimate aim is to reach an altitude of 36,000 km--what is called the "geostationary orbit," synchronous with earth. The satellites or other payloads to be launched using bigger vehicles will also be having much more weight, say about 60 kg.

PSLV Programme

India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is being designed for this purpose and the present programme is to put it in orbit in 1988. If plans go well, it may even be possible to achieve the aim a year in advance.

achieve the aim a year in advance

This vehicle will be a four-stage one, the first stage using solid propellant, the second liquid, and the third and fourth, again solid. The enormous thrust the liquid fuel has over the solid fuel is its significant advantage. It gets 60 tonnes of thrust at sea level. While the burning time for solid fuel may be about 60 seconds, that of liquid propellant will be 10 times longer.

It is these advantages and necessities that have prompted the space authorities to launch this programme. The European Space Agency is involved in this programme and the Government of India has entered into a contract with a French company for effecting the launch during the 1986-89 period. Over 3,000 million francs are put in this venture.

Pre-requisites

In setting up such a test facility, it is pointed out, certain pre-requisites have to be taken into account. For one thing, it is the composition of the liquid fuel itself (consisting of N_2O_4 and UDMH).

UDMH (Unsymmetrical Dimethyl Hydrazine) is a harmful substance and causes health hazards. But it has to be used with safeguards to the extent possible, as is done in the U.S., USSR and France.

It is necessary to ensure maximum safety for those who work on the project, those living nearby, man or animal and the environment.

The general conditions are minimum rainfall, control on air and noise pollution, a certain level of height above sea level, high wind velocity, less vegetation, security points and nearness to the space centres.

Bearing all these in mind, a team of ISRO scientists and other experts began their work for selecting a suitable site for the liquid test facility. They surveyed as many as 27 hills in Orissa, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

In Kerala, Veliamelai area was found to be suitable. But in view of the hazards pollution may cause, the Government expressed its inability to give the land for the project. Another complex is to come up in this area, which does not cause pollution. It will more or less be a hardware workshop. Here also security counts a great deal and this project too is having teething problems in acquiring the land and felling trees.

There was no objection to the selec-

tion of Nellar Thittai area and the Tamil Nadu Government gave its consent. Land acquisition and other measures were discussed at a high level conference, when no problem about wildlife or the lion-tailed monkey seems to have been raised.

According to the ISRO sources, the Nellar Thittai area was "quite ideal" as it conforms to the varied requirements of the project. In all, the Tamil Nadu Government will have to give about 7,000 acres of land on the hill side. About 200 acres of land outside the forest area have to be acquired from private parties.

On the road from Tirunelveli to Kanyakumari is Panakudi village, where the main avocation of the people is farming. On the right side of the road can be seen the tail end of the Western Ghats, the road leading to the Anaimozhi pass. From the road itself, the Nellar Thittai can be seen lying east-west at a distance of three to four km.

Behind Nellar Thittai, there is another ridge and two ridges are linked at the southern point. On the northern side too, there is an elevation, but lower than the other three sides. To reach the proposed project area, which is like a trough, one has to cross over the small elevation.

Protected on all sides by hills, the project range is considered to be ideal for conducting experiments causing little harm to anyone.

Dry spot

From a distance, one can see this area dotted with a few trees. The approach to the place strewn with thorny shrubs is through a jeepable track which winds through palm trees, cacti and similar vegetation and crosses some stream beds which remain mostly dry. One has to walk to reach the site from the foot of the elevation.

Being a rain shadow area, the place is dry and the local people say that they had rains this year after a lapse of time. The absence of rain or rather the availability of scanty rain goes to a great extent in favour of the test facility. For, it reduces the gravity of the pollution of groundwater resources. Noise pollution and air pollution are taken care of.

As the experiments are to be held in the trough area, very little noise will be heard outside from the blast. Wind velocity in the region is very

high. The wind from the Bay of Bengal rebounding off the hills creates a spiral and one can hardly keep his feet steady. The advantage is the release from the blast gets quickly dispersed.

Other points in favour mentioned are that the area is secluded providing ample security. It is very near to the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Trivandrum. The population in the area is very small. A hamlet is about three km away. The almost barren land attracts only stray cattle and poor people who collect the firewood.

It is now more than six years since the area was deemed a suitable site for the liquid test facility centre. The ISRO personnel have prepared the contour map of the project site. Surveys on groundwater facility have been conducted by digging borewells and identifying the places. A portion of the area has been cleared.

Halt to work

However, further work on the project remains suspended for some time now. For want of clearance by the authorities concerned, the ISRO personnel are not able to continue their work in the area.

According to Mr. Yusuf, a school teacher in Panakudi, there are no monkeys in the area, leave alone the lion-tailed monkey.

It will be a misnomer to call the proposed project area Mahendragiri Hills, he points out. Mahendragiri (also visible with its 'M' shaped cliffs) is a few km away, and here there are a few estates where fruit trees like guavas and jack are grown.

One can also see ordinary rhesus monkey here. But the lion-tailed monkeys are said to have been seen in Kalakkud range only, further north in the ghats after crossing over Thirukunnamkudi.

Monkey sanctuary

Enquiries with the Forest Department officials show that the proposed site comes within the Bhoothapandy forest range under the control of the Nagercoil District Forest Officer. This range is part of the area proposed as sanctuary for the lion-tailed monkey.

The Ashambu Hills cover the western and eastern side of the ghats, and forest officials agree that the particular species of this arboreal animal abounds

in the dense forests in these areas

On the western side, Keeriparai and Muthukuli and on the eastern side, Kalakkad and Papanasam are mentioned as areas where the species has been found in sufficient numbers. The presence of varied fruit trees provides a good feeding ground for these animals.

On the contrary, it is pointed out, Nallar Thittai has only a few tamarind trees and no fruit or flower trees. The national highway is just a few km away.

Why the test facility?

Why should there be a liquid testing facility?

India now has to depend on other nations for its satellite communications. Its requirement is to put a satellite of 600 kg into orbit at the earliest time for many reasons.

Such a satellite will be a booster for the communication network in the country. Besides affording nation-wide facilities, the STD arrangements of the Posts and Telegraph Department could be speeded up considerably.

Another benefit is its ability to detect the oil and mineral resources in the country. Other uses are its potential from the defence point of view. For all these, the launch vehicle plays an important part, and in it the propellant used for the launch.

A theory put forward by some people is that the blasts during the experiments will scare away the wild animals. This theory would not hold good, it is argued, for the reason that a firing range of the armed forces functioned adjacent to this area and closer to the dense forests range.

Some Harijan women living near the proposed site said they were not troubled by wild animals. Ordinary monkeys, of course, made their appearance in the village at times, but they had not seen this "special type of lion-tailed monkeys".

Is there an alternative site for locating the facility? The only other site available is the Tirupeti Hills. But the ISRO authorities are not in favour of this site, since it is close to a pilgrim centre where thousands of people throng.

Apart from the survey of the area

and survey for groundwater, no other major work has been taken up in the area. The civil engineering authorities will start their work only after the land has been handed over to the ISRO.

Sources close to the ISRO say that the developments have left them "sore and dejected". Many shudder at the thought of starting the cycle again, right from the stage of site selection.

Some officials deputed from the Prime Minister's office recently visited the area to have an on-the-spot study. They seem to have concurred with the ISRO authorities about the non-existence of the lion-tailed monkey in this area.—Our —Tiruvandrum Staff Reporter

Enquiries with the Collector of Kanyakumari show that no objection has been received from any quarter and the authorities have been going ahead with their work. Proposals for transfer of pottamboke land to the Space Department of the Government of India are being processed and sanction of special staff for acquisition of patta lands has been applied for (writes our Tirunelveli Staff reporter).



OIL COMMISSION SUFFERS LOSS OF TECHNICAL PERSONNEL

Madras THE HINDU in English 6 Jul 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, July 5. A major problem faced by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission at a time when it is poised for a big expansion of its off-shore oil production is the dislocation caused to its operations by the exodus of its technical personnel at all levels, lured by the infinitely more attractive salaries offered by international oil companies and other agencies looking for oil, especially in third world countries.

ONGC is not in a position to retain them as it cannot afford to pay them the salaries they can get abroad. For instance, a senior seismologist in ONGC is entitled to a salary between Rs 2,000 and Rs 3,000 per month in addition to certain other benefits. The foreign companies which are looking for Indian oil technologists, however, are offering them salaries starting from \$2,000 per month, depending upon their expertise.

It is, therefore, not surprising that there has been a migration of ONGC personnel and during the last two years, more than 50 of its senior technical officers have resigned.

The foreign companies are also offering other benefits including a break from duty stretching to about 40 days at the end of a prospecting season and a travel allowance to cover the cost of air journeys to India and back. This enables the technical personnel to visit India at least twice a year.

Among the public sector units, ONGC seems to have been the hardest hit, ironically because of its own successful performance in the Bombay High.

The third world countries, particularly in Africa, are looking for oil in a big way and have engaged international oil companies for exploration. These companies have been closely watching the performance of ONGC in the Bombay High and the reservoir of talent it has painstakingly built up over the past several years in the several disciplines of exploration technology. And they are now making a big draft on the severely limited personnel resources of ONGC.

CSO: 4220/7198

INCREASED FERTILIZER PRODUCTION EXPECTED IN 1981-82

Madras THE HINDU in English 6 Jul 81 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 5

Nitrogenous fertilizer output during 1981-82 is expected to reach 32 lakh tonnes, registering an increase of 10.4 lakh tonnes over 1980-81.

Production of phosphatic fertilizers is likely to be 9.25 lakh tonnes in 1981-82 as against 8.4 lakh tonnes in 1980-81.

These expectations are based on the production results of April and May, 1981, amounting to 4.3 lakh tonnes of nitrogenous fertilizers as against 2.9 lakh tonnes in the same period of 1980.

The anticipated higher output this year is possible on account of the disappearance of feedstock and coal shortages which had plagued the industry last year.

Five new fertilizer projects — Haldia and Trombay in the public sector, GNFC (Bharuch) and Kanpur (expansion) in the private sector and Kandi (expansion) in the cooperative sector, are under commission and will go into regular production during 1981-82.

These new projects will raise nitrogen and phosphates capacity significantly. Nitrogen capacity will go up from the present 45.75 lakh tonnes to 53.02 lakh tonnes and phosphates capacity from 12.82 lakh tonnes to 14.90 lakh tonnes.

There are a number of other projects under implementation. When completed, they will raise the capacity to 68.55 lakh tonnes of nitrogen and 15.30 lakh tonnes of phosphates by 1985-86.

To meet growing requirements, the Sixth Plan envisages an ambitious programme for development of additional capacity. It is proposed to take up in a phased manner as many as eight new nitrogen and 11 phosphatic fertilizer plants.

Of these, six will be based on natural gas available from the South Basin area. The recommendations of a committee set up to suggest location of the proposed gas-based plants are expected to be available shortly.

CSO: 4220/7198

NEW PLANT NUTRIENT TO RAISE CROP OUTPUT INTRODUCED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 Jul 81 p 7

[Text] Chandigarh, July 8.--A revolutionary concept to provide plant nutrients through the atmosphere instead of the soil has been introduced on an experimental basis in Punjab and Haryana. The nutrient, developed by a private sector firm, increases the crops' ability to take in water through its roots and carbon dioxide through its leaves after it is sprayed on plants.

It is claimed that this process increased the grain crop yield by 20%. It has been tried for two consecutive years in selected wheat and paddy fields in Punjab and Haryana. About 500 trial fields in different climates have been chosen. Some of them are in Ludhiana, Hoshiarpur, Mogra and Ferozepur in Punjab and along the Grand Trunk Road. It has also been tried in Etah in Uttar Pradesh and Warrangal in Andhra Pradesh. Laboratory tests and trial under controlled conditions had preceded its use.

Mr Balram Jhakhar, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, a successful farmer himself, told this reporter that the nutrient was used in his fields too. There was definitely some increase in yield as a result, but the nutrient had been sprayed late and the real impact would be known after the next season's spray operations, he added.

To manufacture the new nutrient, a large factory is being set up at Jammu. The agricultural technology for it would greatly supplement the effect of chemical fertilizer. The main raw material for its production is available within the country and will cost the farmers much less than chemical fertilizer. It helped the vegetable crop considerably. The maximum rise in yield was registered at 50%. The tomato output rose by 90%.

According to a spokesman of the Hindustan Lever Research Centre at Bombay, the nutrient, the first of its kind, was the fruit of nearly three years of research by its team led by Mr K. K. G. Menon. He referred to the experiments made with alfalfa in the USA.

CSO: 4220/7254

ENERGY MEETING TOLD OF PROGRESS IN OIL SEARCH

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Jun 81 p 23

[Text] New Delhi, June 21 (PTI)--The West Bengal delta region has shown a very promising presence of hydrocarbons on the basis of a re-interpretation of geological and geophysical data carried out by the official agencies.

According to the Union petroleum secretary, Mr Lavraj Kumar, the government was now engaged in making a complete re-interpretation of all the geological and geophysical data to assess the country's energy potential. The future oil strategy would be based on such studies which are likely to be completed after the monsoon.

Mr Lavraj Kumar was speaking at a meeting on the energy problem organised by the forum of financial writers here on Saturday. The other participants were Mr T. R. Satishchandran, former adviser in the planning commission and currently with the Cabinet secretariat, Mr V. G. Rajadhyaksha, former member of the planning commission and Prof. S. Chakravarty of the Delhi School of Economics.

Energy Audits

Mr Lavraj Kumar said studies were also being carried out on the process of enhanced recovery from oil-wells. While the primary recovery could yield 15 to 20 per cent of the oil, enhanced recovery techniques promised a much greater flow. With regard to the wells that were currently not producing anything, well-stimulation programmes were under way. The discussion mainly centred on India's energy needs, both present and future, along with the possibility of alternative sources to fill the gap. The majority of the speakers agreed that the country would continue to depend heavily on conventional fuels for the next 20 to 30 years.

The pattern of energy use in India revealed that on the eve of the sixth five-year plan (1980-85), the country consumed 104 million tonnes of coal, nearly 30 million tonnes of petroleum-products and used 112 billion kwh of electricity.

Besides these well-known 'commercial' fuels, India also consumed large quantities of traditional fuels like an estimated 130 million tonnes of firewood, 40 million tonnes of agricultural waste and 75 million tonnes of animal dung.

This meant that in terms of coal replacement about 45 per cent of the total energy consumed was met by non-commercial fuels. Industry and transport sector accounted for 38 per cent and 32 per cent of the commercial energy consumption respectively.

Nuclear Energy

According to the Working group on energy policy, if vigorous policy action to control energy demands was not taken, then by the turn of the century, the requirement of coal would rise five-fold, oil three-fold and electricity five-fold.

On the role of nuclear energy in India, Mr Satishchandran said the uranium, reserves were considered to be adequate to support 8000 MW-generation in fission reactors. Thorium reserves were much larger at 363,000 tonnes, but the technology for their use had yet to be developed but any increase in nuclear power generation in India was constrained by the very low economies of scale of production. Therefore, he did not visualise any major role for nuclear energy in the near future.

According to a modest projection, it would take at least another 20 years before India could develop thorium-based fast breeder reactors, he added.

Prof. Chakravarty observed that when OPEC hiked its oil prices, the increased revenue from oil sales found its way into Western banks which subsequently lent the money to the developing countries.

The developing countries, therefore, not only paid high oil prices, they also came under an increasing debt burden. He called upon the developing countries to come to an understanding directly with OPEC for opening a special lending facility.

Energy Consumption

Mr Rajadhyaksha argued that energy conservation was a prime need in India. He called for an energy audit on the lines of the financial audits undertaken by companies. While those companies making an excessive use of energy should be penalised, efficient ones could be given a bonus, he observed.

In this context, Mr Lavraj Kumar said the units under the petroleum ministry has been asked to submit quarterly audit reports, beginning next quarter, as a mandatory measure.

Mr Rajadhyaksha further observed that there was no case at all for giving concessional power to the agricultural sector. He called for an increase in the administered price of certain energy sources. He said while the government feared that it would lead to higher inflation, his own observation was that the government tried to meet this gap through enormous budgetary support.

Mr Rajadhyaksha made a pointed reference to kerosene as a cooking medium in households which used stoves that consumed excess energy. To this point, Mr Lavraj Kumar said the government was setting up five small-scale units to make stoves which will make a better use of energy.

SIXTH PLAN PROVISIONS FOR SMALL SCALE INDUSTRY NOTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Jun 81 p 22

[Text] Mangalore, June 21--An ambitious plan to encourage small-scale industries would be implemented in the sixth plan period and the supply of raw materials to them would be ensured, the Union deputy minister for industries, Mr P. A. Sangma, said here yesterday.

Delivering the valedictory address at the short-term entrepreneurs' training programme organised by Syndicate Bank, Mr Sangma said production during the sixth plan period in the small-scale sector would rise by 30,000 tonnes, which would be an 8.34 per cent growth rate and of the order of Rs 180 crores.

He said the government was aware of the needs of small-scale industries for raw materials and coal. All efforts would be made to improve the supply, he added.

Mr Sangma said in Karnataka 27,000 tonnes of steel had been released against a demand of 39,000 tonnes and the government hoped to provide an additional ten per cent to the small units.

The minister said that during the last three years there was a set-back in industrial expansion in Karnataka but there were signs that it was picking up now with an increase in the number of licences and letters of intent.

The Central government was taking steps to expand ancillaries to major industries and small-scale industries to generate more employment, and remove regional imbalances by the diversion of industries to the rural areas, he stated.

The general manager of Syndicate Bank, Mr H. N. Rao, presided over the function.

CSO: 4220/7086

CAR MANUFACTURERS PERMITTED TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Jun 81 p 10

[Text]

NEW DELHI, June 21 (UNI).

THE Union government has permitted the country's two leading automobile manufacturers to effect improvements in their respective models and bring them in line with modern requirements.

According to industry ministry sources, Premier Automobiles have been allowed to enter into collaboration for this purpose with the SEAT company of Spain, a subsidiary of Fiat of Italy, while Hindustan motors have been allowed technical collaboration with M.S. Vauxhall of England.

The improvements to be effected in these models will be mainly in body design with minimal improvements in the engines. The schemes are likely to cost each of these manufacturers about Rs. 15 crores and the improved models are expected to go into production by 1983.

The seat model is 124 D which will involve an improved body design with some tooling facilities.

However, with the government-owned Maruti also trying to market their new model around the same time, the possibilities of the private manufacturers going ahead with their improvement plans appear doubtful, specially because these schemes are likely to raise the cost of the finished product

further.

The present retail price of these cars in the private sector is about Rs. 70,000 on road. With the current inflationary trends and cost of additional expansion and improvements in the existing plants, the price is expected to shoot up by 20 to 25 per cent more by 1983.

The Maruti design which is expected to be finalised by the middle of next month, will offer not only a futuristic model but also an engine which will be low on fuel consumption.

Since the private sector car would be competing against the Maruti model in 1983.

The possibility of these manufacturers going ahead with only marginal improvements in body design with little or no change in the engine or its fuel-cost effectiveness will pose serious problems to them. The high-cost factor is another reason which may force these companies to evaluate the impact the Maruti car may have on their markets in the country.

According to recent industry announcements and the emphasis by the minister of state for industry, Mr. Charanji Charana, on the pattern of ancillarisation being planned for Maruti, it should have a head start over the other models in respect of price as well as performance.

CSO: 4220/7085

NEW VARIETY SORGHUM SEED FACILITATES RECORD CROP

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Jun 81 p 5

[Text] The production of sorghum ('jowar'), already on the upswing in recent years, is set to touch a new high in the country, thanks to the identification of several new high-yielding varieties of the non-hybrid kind by research scientists on the job, reports PTI.

As is known, sorghum is the most important cereal crop in the country's vast drylands. Its production rose from 9.8 million tonnes in 1968-69 to 11.3 million tonnes in 1979-80 despite the fact that the area under this crop actually declined from 18.7 million hectares to 16.4 million hectares in that period.

This increase in output became possible because more and more farmers took to the hybrid, high-yielding varieties evolved by the scientists in that period.

The problem with hybrids, however, is that the farmer must purchase fresh seeds every year from the seed-producing agencies. The produce in his own land is not much good as seed. This naturally has acted as a constraint.

That constraint would stand removed with the identification of the new non-hybrid high-yielding varieties. The produce in the farmer's own field would be as good for seed as for consumption. Dr H. K. Jain, Director of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, told PTI on Saturday.

Dr Jain believes that, with this constraint removed, more and more farmers in the dryland areas would take to the new varieties of sorghum. The area under this crop as well as the output would go up.

The sorghum improvement programme, organised by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, is being coordinated on a national basis by the regional station of the IARI at Hyderabad.

CSO: 4220/7084

OIL MINISTRY: NO FOREIGN TIE-UP FOR BOMBAY HIGH

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Jun 81 p 5

[Text]

The Petroleum Ministry on Saturday dismissed as "baseless and tendentious" reports in a section of the press that Bombay High offshore area is to be opened to foreign companies for oil exploration, reports UNI.

There was absolutely no intention to offer any blocks in the Bombay offshore area to any foreign company, a spokesman of the Ministry told newsmen.

Even the technical cooperation or assistance sought by Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) in the Bombay High area would be strictly on terms that would not permit sharing of the oil with any foreign collaborator. There was no change in this position, the spokesman said.

The Government of India's stand on Bombay High was well known to all foreign companies, the spokesman said.

The 35 foreign oil companies, which were recently invited to submit bids for oil exploration in 32 off-shore and onshore blocks were told clearly that the bids were for the blocks specifically demarcated for the purpose and none of these blocks were in the Bombay offshore area.

The spokesman said that negotiations with the foreign companies were still on and it would be difficult to state at this stage when they would be completed.

Asked whether some of the companies left out in the first round would be invited again, the spokesman said the Government might do so. Some companies, particularly Japanese, had expressed a desire to participate in case of a second round of bids. The

Government was considering the matter.

The spokesman also categorically denied that China had offered to supply oil drilling rigs to India. No such offer had been received.

Asked about the drilling in the Narasapur area of Andhra Pradesh, the spokesman said drilling of the first well had to be stopped as they encountered gas to great pressure which created certain problems.

A second well was being drilled and a third one would be drilled. After evaluating the performance, the ONGC might consider going back to the first well, he said.

About the take-over of Oil India and Assam Oil Company a final round of negotiations would be started next month.

The spokesman said that during the negotiations in the past, the differences regarding the modalities of take-over and compensation to be paid to the Burmah Oil Company had been narrowed down.

While declining to indicate the exact amount of compensation to be paid, the spokesman said the amount of Rs 30 crore mentioned in press was far off the mark, when negotiations were reaching a crucial stage, he would not like to specify the actual amount.

Asked whether the take-over would be completed by October as proposed earlier, he said it would be difficult to set any time limit.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS DELAY OFFSHORE OIL SEARCH

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Jun 81 p 7

[Text] Bombay, June 19--Environmental groups abetted by political agitators have succeeded in delaying the work on the construction of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission's vital off-shore supply base and off-shore fabrication plant at Nhava island across Bombay harbour by at least one year.

Agitators led by the Peasants and Workers Party had for the last month blocked the road connecting the island to the mainland forcing the ONGC to use the sea route or helicopter to reach its work site. Even drinking water was not allowed to be supplied and it had to be brought from Bombay by barges.

Early yesterday morning, the police cleared the road blockade and escorted 12 vehicles stranded at the construction site on the island. When the villagers heard the noise of vehicles speeding the agitators rushed out and threw stones at the convoy. No one was injured.

The Corporation's project, which is described as most essential for exploiting the Bombay High gas and oil, has been so affected by the political agitators and environmentalists that for the past month a company of the State reserve police is stationed at the work site.

Yesterday, ONGC officials could not move out in the village. While the environmentalists are opposing the development of the off-shore supply base on the plea that this would disturb the ecology, the Peasants and Workers Party has taken up the issue of compensation for land acquired by the corporation.

Actually Nhava village is situated on the island and totally cut off from Bombay or the mainland. Ironically, hope of prosperity and better communications came to the village only after the ONGC built an approach bund. It is now connected with a road. The approach route pushed up the prices of land in the vicinity it now happens to be at a distance of hardly two hours' run from south Bombay by road. Then the agitation began. The village, situated in a corner of the island, is poor and most of its residents depended for their livelihood on the mainland. When construction work started for the supply base, nearly 300 people from the village and the adjoining areas got employment as labourers and in various other capacities. But most of these workers stopped working since the agitation began.

According to some State Government officials, some of the villagers were starving for want of work. But they were being prevented from going to work. The main objection of the environmentalist groups was that the corporation was cutting the trees and denuding the island. However, a visit to the island shows that the ONGC has occupied only a small portion of the island. The corporation has no doubt cut about 300 trees. But in their place the corporation has taken care to plant new trees. Till now, nearly 1,000 trees have been planted. Besides, the corporation has ordered 2000 saplings of fast-growing trees to be planted in the vicinity. Corporation circles are disturbed over the vehemence of the environmentalists especially because the corporation is not disturbing any vegetation. Some circles fear that lobbies interested installing the vital work on the Bombay High off-shore oil and gas could be responsible for creating a frenzy against development of Nhava. According to an official, it was becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the pace of work on Bombay High without a proper supply base.

CSO: 7077

ONGC PLAN TO PURCHASE OIL RIGS APPROVED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 20 Jun 81 p 14

[Article by G. K. Pandey]

[Text] The Oil and Natural Gas Commission's proposal for an outright purchase of an offshore drilling rig has been approved by the public investment board, it is reliably learnt.

In view of the steep escalation in the daily chartering rates of drill ships in the world market due to spurt in the exploration activity, the ONGC has been anxious to buy more rigs. In the long run it will save the country a huge amount of foreign exchange and also help in accelerating the exploration and oil production plan.

Earlier this year, the commission had placed an order on the reputed Robin Shipyard at Singapore for two jack up rigs. The estimated cost of these two rigs is \$90 million. The contract with Robin Shipyard stipulates delivery of the first rig in November next year and the second in January, 1983.

Another rig, for which an order had been placed with a French firm, is expected to sail for India on June 23 from Dunkirk, according to information reaching the petroleum ministry. The arrival of this rig, which has been christened Sagar Pragati, would enable the ONGC to step up its pace of exploration.

With the clearance of its latest proposal the commission will own six drilling rigs for its offshore oil exploration and production programmes.

At the start of this year, the ONGC had five offshore drilling rigs in operation--one owned by it and four charter-hired. With the coming of Sagar-Vikas in January, the second ONGC-owned jack-up rig and charter hiring of an additional rig, seven rigs were in operation. Sagar Pragati will now make it eight.

In view of the sharp increase in the oil and petroleum products import budget, the government has revised upward the oil production target from the offshore areas of the Bombay High and its satellites.

The plan document has estimated crude oil production from the offshore areas of the Bombay High at 5.13 million tonnes during the sixth plan period. The revised

estimates of production compiled by the petroleum ministry have placed the total output at a little over 60 million tonnes.

This means that nine million tonnes of additional crude oil will be available from offshore areas. This would mean a colossal saving on import of oil and products. Assuming that the crude oil prices will be \$50 a barrel in the next three to four years, nine million tonnes of additional oil will result in a saving of Rs 2,600 crores.

CSO: 4220/7076

PRIVATE SECTOR PERMITTED TO SEEK WORLD BANK LOANS

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Jun 81 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI June 18

The Government of India is now permitting the private sector to seek loans from the International Finance Corporation, an affiliate of the World Bank, in spite of the fact that the rate of interest on IFC loans is still high amounting to between 13 and 14 per cent.

Disclosing the liberalisation in the Government's policy in respect of raising foreign credits by the private sector, Mr R. N. Malhotra, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs of the Union Finance Ministry, told newsmen here on Thursday that the IFC was also carrying out various exercises to have a basket of currencies from which loans could be given to private parties.

FC has already sanctioned a loan of \$38 millions to TISCO for a modernisation and expansion programme. Coromandel Cements has been sanctioned a loan of about \$16 millions and Deepak Fertilizers \$7.5 millions.

Why the liberalisation: Explaining why the Government was now permitting the private sector to seek assistance from IFC, Mr Malhotra said, the increasing pressure on India's exchange reserves obliged India to seek foreign loans from every quarter. Secondly, IFC is highly respected for its competence in making technical assessments of projects. An IFC-supported project could raise credits from other sources as well.

Mr Malhotra, who was briefing newsmen on the deliberations at the Aid India Consortium in Paris, said that India had given the World Bank a project pipeline for which the external aid requirements during 1981-82 would

be around \$5518 millions while the total cost of the projects would be \$11,000 millions.

While the project pipeline given to the World Bank for 1982-83 indicated a requirement of \$4,000 millions, the 1983-84 projects would require an external assistance of \$3,000 millions.

Enough projects: He was giving these figures to drive home his point that the general impression that India was not coming forward with enough number of projects while seeking external finance is not correct.

India was also having similar project pipelines for which it was seeking assistance from other countries. The World Bank was now seeing for itself how well India was handling its projects and trying to organise external credit.

Mr Malhotra said that there would certainly be a possibility of India borrowing more from the World Bank when the expansion of its capital base becomes effective in October next.

Mr Malhotra admitted that the total aid commitment of \$3.45 billions (corresponding to 2.86 Special Drawing Rights) amounted to a nominal increase of not more than 3.7 per cent over the aid commitment of \$3.41 billions (2.86 billion SDRs) which was lower than the rate of global inflation.

He pointed out that the climate for aid had deteriorated considerably mainly because of the conditions in many of the aid-giving countries. There is also in some countries a weakening of the aid lobbies.

Therefore, in that context, he said, "It appears to me that the fact that the aid has been maintained at more or less the previous levels is a matter of some satisfaction though we would have liked to get more." The bulk of the aid amounting to \$2 billions would come from the World Bank and its affiliates.

Animated discussion: Mr Malhotra however said that the Census figures had come for a very animated discussion at the Aid India Consortium meeting. The delegations of the donor countries shared the concern of the Indian Government that the growth of population had not abated even though the birth rate had gone down. However, they took note of the considerable increase in longevity and expressed great satisfaction over this fact, as it was the ultimate test of well-being and had shown the spread of India's health cover.

The delegations also expressed their satisfaction over the high rate of savings amounting to 22 per cent achieved by India and also the high tax ratio which was indicative of the Government's earnestness in raising resources.

Faster disbursement: The World Bank and the donor countries had given an assurance that the disbursements of the pledged funds would be faster than in the earlier years so that India did not suffer from inflationary erosion of the funds on account of delayed disbursements. Many countries had already moved in the direction. There will be more of non-project aid, while in the case of project, there would be faster disbursements.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SECRETARY RETURNS FROM PARIS MEETING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Jun 81 pp 1, 7

[Text]

THE Aid India Consortium will place greater emphasis on non-project aid in its future lendings to India in view of the difficult balance of payment position.

Economic Affairs Secretary R N Malhotra, briefing newsmen on the latest meeting of the Consortium in Paris, said on Thursday that it was for the first time that the Consortium talked of support to India in its balance of payment position.

Mr Malhotra said that though the amount had not been specified in the 3.45 billion dollar aid pledged to India, many countries had indicated their willingness to give India more non-project or non-programme assistance.

Announcing a policy change, he said the Government had decided to encourage private sector to obtain assistance from the International Finance Corporation, the World Bank's affiliate specialised in lending to private sector.

Mr Malhotra said the decision was taken as IFC loans were cheaper and carried interest of only 13 to 14 per cent, lower than the prevailing rate of Euro-currency market.

He said the projects assisted by the IFC could help attract additional capital from other. IFC could itself put together a consortium to meet extra capital requirements.

Mr Malhotra said that the members of the consortium welcomed the recovery of the Indian economy during 1980-81 from the drought-induced decline in production during 1979-80. They particularly commended India reaching a record level of food production as well as the man-

agement of the food economy.

However, the members had expressed concern over the sharp deterioration in the balance of payment position and a disadvantageous shift in the terms of trade. This posed a serious problem to the Indian economy which may persist for some more time, they felt.

This fact prompted several member countries to put greater emphasis on the non-programme aid to India, Mr Malhotra added.

Mr Malhotra said the climate for foreign aid had "considerably deteriorated" mainly due to the economic difficulties faced by several of the Aid-India Consortium members. There had been a weakening of the aid-lobby in many of these countries. Under these circumstances, the aid pledge of 3.45 billion dollars this year as against 3.1 billion dollars last year was a matter of "some satisfaction", he said.

Mr Malhotra said India's sixth Plan came up for detailed discussion at the meeting.

The meeting generally endorsed the Plan. Many members appreciated India's saving rate which was as high as 22 per cent. It was also noted that India's development policy was to depend the least on foreign assistance. The sixth Plan's external assistance requirement was less than five per cent.

Mr Malhotra said members were concerned over the strains in infra-structure, particularly in the power and transportation sectors. Considerable concern was also expressed at the results, of the recent census which suggested that the population growth had not slowed down to the extent previously estimated.

STEEL AUTHORITY PLANTS REPORT RECORD PRODUCTION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Jul 81 p 5

[Text]

VISAKHAP/ATNAM, July 6 (PTI)
PRODUCTION of saleable steel at the integrated steel plants under the Steel Authority of India Limited in June was 443,000 tonnes as against 422,000 tonnes in May last.

According to a press release issued by the SAIL, the ingot steel production from SAIL plants in June 1981, was 488,000 tonnes as against 417,000 tonnes produced in June 1980, registering a growth of 17 per cent.

The release said that at the end of the first quarter of the current financial year (April-June), SAIL plants have aggregated 12.35 lakh tonnes of saleable steel.

The Bokaro steel plant established new quarterly records in production of ingot steel as well

as saleable steel. Steel ingot production during the first quarter of the current financial year was a record 415,000 tonnes and saleable steel production was 338,000 tonnes, also a new record for the first quarter.

The Durgapur steel plant registered a growth of 79.6 per cent at the end of the first quarter over the corresponding period of the previous year by producing 1,94,000 tonnes of saleable steel as against 108,000 tonnes produced during April-June 1980.

The Rourkela steel plant registered a growth of 29.1 per cent over the production of the first quarter of the last financial year by producing 231,000 tonnes of saleable steel during the first three months of the current financial year, the release added.

CSO: 4220/7204

DELHI REPORTEDLY CONSIDERS STRONG ECONOMIC MEASURES

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Jul 81 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI July 6

The Government is considering a series of drastic measures which call for some hard-headed political decisions to prevent the economy from slipping into a crisis.

The much-talked of package promised by the Finance Minister Mr. R. Venkataraman for curbing the price rise has been delayed unduly by too much dithering at the higher levels where the tendency is to opt for softer solutions.

But the Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi has been told by her advisers that there are no easy remedies when deficit financing has already crossed the limits of prudence and the country is obliged to rely on printed money for meeting the mounting governmental expenditure.

Budgetary deficit

The gloomy outlook on the price front it has been pointed out is only one aspect of the critical situation created by wasteful public expenditure, heavy imports, increasing oil bill, new Defence commitments and fiscal mismanagement, when export earnings are declining and the earlier estimates of a budgetary gap of only Rs. 1,600 crores for 1981-82 have already been belied by the grim prospect that the deficit may cross Rs. 3,000 crores if no timely steps are taken to check it.

The current thinking is to tackle the problem at different levels with constraints on increases in personal incomes with a ceiling on dividends, impounding of new hikes in wages and dearness allowances, further restrictions on bank credits and deposits, followed by heavy curbs on non-essential imports, drastic cuts in public expenditure steps to

attract further foreign remittances and severe penal measures against economic offenders indulging in hoarding, profiteering and tax evasion.

Increased imports have not brought relief

The Government, in all its innocence had imagined that liberalisation of imports would in itself act as an incentive for increased production which, in turn, would help to relieve the inflationary pressures. But it has now realised to its dismay that nearly Rs. 2,000 crores of scarce foreign exchange has been wasted on increased imports without bringing any relief to the people.

The sharp rise in the oil bill was something that was out of the Government's control and money had to be found to pay for it. But the increased expenditure incurred on other imports, at a time when the export earnings were declining and the country's foreign exchange reserves were on the decline, was something that the Government could have avoided without allowing itself to be lulled into the belief that this was in itself a deflationary measure.

The Prime Minister has been told that she must come down with a heavy hand on both the Central and State Governments to curtail public expenditure. Neither the Finance Ministry nor the Planning Commission has any control over the spending spree of the various Central Ministries and State Governments which cannot be expected to submit to any financial discipline unless she is ready to crack the political whip and enforce greater compliance.

The poor response to the Bearer Bond Scheme which yielded only Rs. 375 crores out of an estimated Rs. 1,000 crores is only one of the factors contributing to the widening budgetary deficit. The increased imports and mounting public expenditure have imposed a heavy burden on the country's finances when the bulk of the export earnings

has to be utilised for footing the petroleum bill and meeting other man-made shortages in edible oils, sugar and cement.

Lack of political will

Though grain production continues to be good, there have been serious bottlenecks of late in both procurement and public distribution. The lack of political will on the part of State Governments to deal firmly with hoarders and profiteers has also been contributing to the prevailing distress by adding to the inflationary pressures.

Despite a lot of brave talk of stern action the Government does not know how to prevent the generation of black money or curb corruption. These twin evils have fouled the economy, contaminated political life and putrefied public values to such an extent that there are no easy administrative solutions for restoring the missing norms.

The remorseless logic of this perplexing situation might compel the Government to go in for a supplementary budget at some stage. But any additional taxation, in the absence of any matching corrective measures, would only add to the inflationary pressures with the remedy proving worse than the disease.

Better moral standards

It is in this context that Mrs. Gandhi has been told that the very process of economic revival will entail a parallel endeavour to purify the national spirit with a better set of political and moral standards which only a ruling party can establish with a display of greater self-discipline. A mere tinkering with the fiscal mechanism, the manipulation of the credit system and the regulation of the import-export policies will not yield the desired results by themselves, unless those in authority, whether at the Centre or in the States, are ready to rise above the rut of party politics or personal advancement.

RBI REPORTS FALL IN COMMERCIAL BANK INVESTMENTS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Jul 81 p 8

[Text] Bombay, July 5 (UNI)--Aggregate investments of all scheduled commercial banks increased by only Rs 1,035 crore (12.7 per cent) in 1978-79--less than half the rise of Rs 2,305 crores (39.4 per cent) in the preceding year.

This is disclosed in a survey of investments of scheduled commercial banks end-March 1979, prepared by the banking division of the Economic Department of the Reserve Bank of India.

In the total of outstanding investments of Rs 9,189 crores for all scheduled commercial banks as at the end of March 1979 investments of offices in India accounted for Rs 9,112 crores (99.2 per cent), the balance being investments of the Indian banks' foreign offices.

Central Government securities accounted for 53.4 per cent of the total investments State Government securities for 15.8 per cent and other trustee securities for 27.2 per cent.

Scheduled commercial banks absorbed around 70 per cent of the net increase in Central Government securities and almost 65 per cent of the net increase in State Government securities.

The survey showed that there was a substantial decline in the scheduled commercial banks holdings of short-dated securities and a noticeable increase in their holdings of long-dated securities in 1978-79.

Out of a total of Rs 6,362 crore invested in Government securities in March 1979 investments in long-dated securities were 52.5 per cent, medium-dated securities 28 per cent and short-term securities 13.1 per cent.

CSO: 4220/7199

HYDRAULIC MINING TO STEP UP COAL PRODUCTION

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Jul 81 p 7

[Text]

BANGALORE July 8

Coal India Limited is planning to try out the novel method of hydraulic mining, in which high pressure water jets are used to cut the coal seams, in three of its mines, one located in the Marganta coal field of Assam and two in the Jharia coalfields of Bihar. This method is supposed to be 30 per cent cheaper than conventional mining.

According to Mr R N Sharma, Chairman cum Managing Director Coal India, two of the projects will be implemented on a turnkey basis by a Russian-Canadian-Japanese consortium. These will be utilising water jets of 130 to 150 atmosphere pressure. The third project will involve technical know-how from a West German firm and will utilise water jets of up to 200 atmosphere pressure.

Coal India has asked the foreign firms to work out feasibility reports for production capacities of 3500, 4000 to 4500 tonnes per day. The final go-ahead will be given on the basis of these reports, which are expected to be submitted by September and the projects are expected to go on stream by 1984-85.

Another innovation that Coal India is going to implement soon is centralised environmental monitoring of gaseous mines through telemetry. At present, the problem of methane gas detection is being tackled by individually carried methanometers.

What is now visualised is a number of sensors located in various spots in the mine which will continuously monitor such parameters as methane content, carbon dioxide level, fresh air flow etc and keep feeding this information to a central control room on the surface. Through various loop controls it will be possible to automatically activate audio-visual alarm systems whenever the environment in

any of the mine deteriorates beyond a safe level.

As an extension of the above system, in the case of highly mechanised mines, Coal India plans to introduce closed circuit TV for remote viewing. Working parameters are continuously being measured and transmitted to a central telecontrol station.

Coordinating group

The mines where the above centralised monitoring and control systems will be tried are Mondih, Sudamdih, Chinakun, Ghuski, Swang and Moris — all in the Bengal-Bihar belt.

A group on electronics in mining has been set up with the assistance of the Electronics Commission, in the Central Mine Planning Institute at Ranchi to coordinate these projects. Technical know-how from Britain and France will be obtained for the telemetry and telecontrol systems.

A major problem faced by Indian coal-based thermal power plants is the high ash content of coal. Washing the coal could mitigate the problem to some extent, though there are a number of thorny economic issues involved in this, particularly the high cost of washed coal to the customer and the utilisation of rejects which will still contain 30 to 40 per cent combustible matter.

Washeries for non-coking coal

Anyhow, as a trial measure, Coal India has proposed the setting up of the two washeries for non-coking coal from the Singrauli fields — one of 4.5 million tonnes per year at Bina and the other of 3 million tonnes per year at Jhingurdah.

Besides bringing down the ash content by about 10 to 12 per cent, the washing is expected to yield a more uniform size and quality of coal and remove the gangue (earthy matter) which is intermixed in the thick seams of

the Singrauli fields. A recovery of 60 to 70 per cent is planned with only one cut, which means there will be no middlings.

For the present, the slurry from the ashing, which will be having about 60 per cent ash, will have to be just dumped. But Mr Sharma feels that they could be used in future in fluidised bed boilers. Research on developing fluidised bed systems is going on at the Central Fuel Research Institute (CFRI), Dhanbad and in BH&L.

The CFRI, according to Mr Sharma, has been successful with a 2-tonne/hour system and is now developing a 10 tonne/hour boiler. The CFRI fluidised bed systems are under normal pressure.

Coal India has now over 14 million tonnes of pithead stock. "We would feel more comfortable", says Mr Sharma, "if at least half of that stock was at the consumer end". Unfortunately the Railways are still not geared to move enough coal to the consuming points. Some experiments are being tried, such as using round robin rake systems for consumers near the pitheads and even conveyor transport.

But a breakthrough will only be made if the proposed pipeline system of transport of a coal water slurry is successful.

2 Pipeline transport projects

Coal India has proposed two pipeline transport projects for India. One will be feeding a Gujarat power house from the Central India Coalfields (about 1000 miles distance) and the other a North India based power house from Singrauli coalfields, 700 miles distant. The throughput will be from 7 to 10 million tonnes per annum and the coal will constitute about 35 per cent of the slurry.

Pipeline transport offers a cheap and reliable method of carrying coal to the bulk consumer.

LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS PROJECT IN NORTHEAST UNDER WAY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Jul 81 p 9

[Text]

SHILLONG, July 2.—Work on the liquefied petroleum gas project at an estimated cost of Rs 16 crores, is in full swing, and after completion it will ease the cooking gas problem to a large extent. This is the first project of its kind in the north-eastern region.

The project site, near Dullajan, the oil town, was till recently a jungle. The job of installing the LPG plant was assigned to a firm based in Bombay in March 1980 on a turnkey basis, to be completed in 21 months.

The plan is to extract LPG from natural gas by cryogenic process using turboexpander for self-refrigeration. The firm will supply major equipment like a 4,500 h.p. motor, centrifugal compressor, turboexpander instruments, specified steel plates tubes for columns and heat exchangers and various pumps.

Once completed, the plant will produce 60,000 tons of LPG (a mixture of propane and butane by weight) and about 12,000 tons of natural gasoline (condensate) every year. Initially, 10,000 tons of LPG

will be bottled and the rest transported by road tankers. The plant is expected to achieve maximum production by 1984-85 depending upon the market uptake.

The responsibility of LPG marketing is assigned to Assam Oil Company and Indian Oil Corporation. In the north-east region, 25,000 tons a year is planned to be marketed, out of which AOC will market 15,000 tons and IOC about 10,000 tons. The remaining 35,000 tons a year will be marketed by IOC in the rest of the country.

Every ton of LPG produced will meet the annual fuel requirement of nine families. The full production of 10,000 tons of LPG will save foreign exchange by cutting down on the import of petroleum, specially kerosene, to the tune of Rs 15.5 crores annually.

CSO: 4220/7178

ENERGY MINISTER REPORTS TO CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Jul 81 p 1

[Text]

BANGALORE, July 1.—In the light of the recommendations made by the Rajyadaksha committee the Centre is preparing a 15-year power plan. Mr A. B. A. Ghani Khan Choudhury, Union Energy Minister, said today.

Addressing a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to his Ministry, he said the committee had suggested a larger role for the Central sector in generation and transmission of power. The Centre was aiming at progressively owning the major 400-KV and 220-KV transmission lines for efficient operation of the country's power system.

Commenting on the overall power position in the country, the Ministry spoke of improved power generation and capacity utilization at thermal stations. Realizing that super thermal stations at coal pitheads were ideal sources for power generation, four projects were now being executed by the National Thermal Power Corporation in the Central sector. The first 200-MW unit of the 2,000-MW Singrauli project in Uttar Pradesh was expected to be commissioned in February next year. The first unit of the Korba project in Madhya Pradesh was expected to start generation in January, 1983 and the Ramagun-

dam project in Andhra Pradesh in February 1984.

Mr Khan Choudhury pointed out that the first 200-MW unit of the Farakka project in West Bengal was expected to go on stream in February 1983. In the first phase it was planned to produce 600 MW of power. Ultimately, the project would have a capacity of 2,100 MW.

The Minister spoke of an ambitious generation programme for the current year. It was proposed to generate 122 billion units against 115.5 billion units last year, thus reducing the power shortage in the country to about 11%.

Referring to the power supply position in the southern region, the Minister said there would be an overall deficit of 4,712 MW. During the period 1980-90 it was planned to create 7,702 MW additional capacity through on-going and sanctioned projects in the region.

Mr Khan Choudhury said that strenuous efforts were being made to boost coal production and maintain supply to major consumers. During the quarter ending in June the production was 27.5 million against 25.9 million tonnes during the corresponding period last year.

ESP: 4220/7184

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT INDEX UP 4.1 PERCENT OVER 1979-80

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 22 Jun 81 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, June 21.—Industrial production increased in 1980-81 by a nominal 4.1% over the previous year which was well below the target. But there were healthy signs that the output was picking up significantly towards the latter part of the year.

Nevertheless, the overall performance for the year, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization, was poor. Evidently, the infrastructural constraints that held back production in 1979-80 were still not over in 1980-81. Production in 1980 was just marginally higher by less than one per cent than in 1979.

According to a Press release, the monthly index of industrial production for March stood at 178.9. It was higher than the index for March, 1980 by 10.4%.

The growth rate during the first three months of 1981 over the same period of 1980 was 9.1%. The growth rate for the financial year 1980-81 over the corresponding period of 1979-80 showed rise of 4.1%.

Compared to last month, the increase of 9.8% in the index is accounted mainly by the increase in production of electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances and supplies, electricity, basic metal industries and mining and quarrying against decrease in production of food manufacturing industries, except beverage industries, and miscellaneous manufacturing industries.

The index number (provisional) of industrial production for each month from January, 1979 to March 1981 are shown below:

Month	1979	1980	1981
January	158.6	154.0	167.4
February	152.2	149.0	161.1
March	162.8	160.3	178.9
April	146.0	138.8	—
May	146.4	143.4	—
June	141.3	141.2	—
July	144.6	147.9	—
August	147.3	148.4	—
September	143.6	150.3	—
October	143.8	151.2	—
November	143.8	153.8	—
December	133.3	169.3	—
Average	143	150.7	—

CSO: 4220/7088

CONGRESS-I 'LOYALISTS' HOLD CONVENTION IN BOMBAY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 22 Jun 81 p 7

[Text]

BOMBAY, June 21.—The Congress (I) convention held here yesterday despite opposition from the Chief Minister and the official party wing, was a success in terms of attendance of a large number of common workers. But none of the Maharashtra Cabinet Ministers participated and only four Congress (I) members of the State Assembly were present.

The Ministers who were certain to attend the convention as claimed by the organizers, the Finance Minister, Mr Ramrao Adik and Mr Baburao Kale, did not turn up. They were held up in the Cabinet meeting.

Mr T. G. Deshmukh, convenor, alleged publicly that the Chief Minister had deliberately arranged Cabinet meetings for the whole week in order to deter his Cabinet colleagues from attending the loyalists convention. Mr R. S. Shastri, chairman of the reception committee, alleged that some of the organizers had been threatened and others were prevented from attending the convention. Mr Deshmukh also alleged that nearly a dozen trucks and buses carrying loyalists were stopped by the police at various points outside Bombay to prevent them from attending the convention.

A spokesman said that the very fact that the convention could be held despite opposition from the Chief Minister was itself a victory for the conventionists. On the other hand, the Chief Minister also seemed to have succeeded in preventing a large number of party legislators and Ministers from attending.

The convention, inaugurated by the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress (I) President, Mrs Pramila Bai

Chavan, expressed discontent with the ruling party. Since Mrs Chavan was involved in its organization, it is generally believed that the convention was an attempt to show the strength of the ruling party lobby not in favour of the Chief Minister. Mr Adik, who is said to have fallen out with Mr Antulay, had also reportedly blessed the organizers of the convention.

Despite the absence of Ministers or legislators, the huge Shanmukhanada Hall in suburban Bombay was packed with participants, most of whom came from the slum colonies where Mr Prabhakar Kunte, a lieutenant of Mrs Chavan, has good influence.

Mrs Chavan, in her inaugural address, said that the convention was not against anybody; nor were the loyalists interested in destabilizing anybody.

She reiterated that the loyal supporters of Mrs Gandhi in Maharashtra had not received fair treatment either from the party or the Government. She was surprised that the directions given by Mrs Gandhi in this respect were being flouted by the party and the Government.

Mr J. B. Dhote, a Congress (I) M.P. from Nagpur, said that those who did not attend the convention were "cowards". He said that if the Ministers in the Maharashtra Government functioned without seeking the party's cooperation, they would be disillusioned.

A resolution passed at the convention demanded that the Maharashtra Congress (I) and the State Government should take serious note of the complaint that "the true and loyal followers of Mrs Gandhi were being ignored in the State."

FOREIGN COLLABORATION IN GODAVARI DRILLING DISCUSSED

Madras THE HINDU in English 22 Jun 81 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI June 21

While the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has the expertise to drill in shallow waters of the Godavari offshore basin upto 100 to 150 metres, it may seek foreign collaboration to drill in deeper waters of 300 metres and more.

Mr Lavraj Kumar, Secretary, Department of Petroleum, who stated this here yesterday said that he had no knowledge of any offer for an offshore oil drilling rig from China as had been mentioned in a press report. He said that an Indian in Calcutta, Mr Sugata Biswas, had sent a message offering a rig similar to the "Shenandoah" chartered from Atwoods Oceanics Limited of the U.S. The party had given no details about where the rig was coming from or the terms on which it was being offered.

Mr Kumar said the "second round" of talks which the Union Petroleum Ministry proposed to have with foreign oil companies on their participation for offshore oil exploration was in response to the interest some of the companies had shown.

He took the occasion to deny categorically a press report that the Government was going to open the Bombay High offshore area to foreign oil companies.

'No cajoling'

Mr Kumar denied that the Ministry was trying to "cajole" the companies which had not submitted their bids to come in. "Nobody cajoles anybody in this business," he said. When the Ministry had earlier shortlisted about 35 companies out of a total of over 60 which had responded to the Government's invitation, a number of companies, including a few Japanese companies had been left out. They had now expressed their interest to come in.

The other companies which had been short-listed but had not submitted their bids had also expressed their desire to join. The proposed "second round" was, therefore, in response to the interest

these companies had shown.

The first round of talks will be with the companies which have already submitted their bids. Discussions have already been held with some of the companies.

The second round of talks would not weaken the hands of the Government. It would not be true to say that the companies engaged in the first round of talks with the Government would take advantage of the second round with the other companies to impose harsher terms on the Government. On the contrary, the second round would "frighten" the companies as they would have to take note of the possibility of their losing the contracts to the companies which would be invited for the second round of talks.

Mr Kumar also did not agree that the Government's condition (indicated in the guidelines communicated to the short-listed companies) that the foreign companies should hand over their blocks within five years after striking oil to the ONGC had dampened the interest of the companies. The ONGC's right for equity participation, claimed by the Government, was in accordance with internationally accepted practice, he said.

Contradicting the press report about the opening of blocks in the Bombay High Offshore to foreign oil companies, a press note of the Petroleum Ministry says: "The fact that Bombay offshore area is not open for oil exploration and development to foreign companies and that any technical cooperation or assistance in Bombay High would not involve giving away of oil is wellknown to all foreign oil companies."

The 35 foreign oil companies which were recently invited to submit bids for oil exploration in 32 offshore and onshore blocks were informed in very clear terms that the bids were invited for the blocks specifically demarcated for the purpose. None of these blocks are in the Bombay offshore area.

VISAKHAPATNAM PORT CHAIRMAN SPEAKS AT CEREMONY

Madras THE HINDU in English 22 Jun 81 p 9

[Text]

VISAKHAPATNAM, June 21.

Despite the Rs. 110 crore outer harbour project, Visakhapatnam Port had not been able to push up iron ore exports beyond six million tonnes per annum due to external reasons. Mr T R Prasad, Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Trust said.

He was the chief guest at a function got up this morning by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation to mark the loading of the first consignment of 92,000 tonnes of Bailadilla iron ore fines to South Korea on mv Acacia. MMTC has concluded an agreement to export 5 lakh tonnes of iron ore fines to Pohang Iron and Steel Company, Korea through Vizag Port.

Mr Prasad said even without the outer harbour project the inner harbour was loading five million tonnes a year.

He said due to steps taken by the Port, vessel turn round was brought down from 120 hours last year to 88 hours this year and demurrage on waiting ships by 50 per cent.

The Port Chairman said the port's conveyer system was prone to breakdown but the engineers connected with the project were taking all steps to maintain it as perfectly as possible. He thanked MMTC for capturing new markets and said it was for the first time the port was loading iron ore fines to a country other than Japan.

Welcoming the chief guest, Mr. K. P. Rao, General Manager, MMTC, Visakhapatnam, said by diversifying exports, MMTC was now marketing iron ore in 12 countries. Very shortly, the Corporation would export from here, minor minerals. — Our Staff Reporter.

CSO: 4220/7089

SHIPPING, FINANCE MINISTERS ON PORT IMPROVEMENTS

Madras THE HINDU in English 22 Jun 81 p 16

[Text]

MADRAS, June 21

The need to avoid berthing delays in ports was stressed on Sunday by Mr R. Venkataraman, Union Minister for Finance and Mr Veerendra Patil, Union Minister for Shipping and Transport while participating at a function in the harbour.

Inaugurating the work on the extension of the Jawahar Dock, Mr Venkataraman referred to the difficulties caused to the public because of the hold-up of imported palmolein in Bombay port due to congestion.

The infrastructure Committee which met in Delhi every week found that congestion and ship delays were most in Bombay. Though Madras port was comparatively better, delays to ships must be reduced from five days to three days.

Mr Venkataraman said that Rs. 55 crores had been allotted in the Sixth Plan for further development of Madras port. He gave the assurance that the Finance Ministry would provide the necessary funds for the port.

He recalled his long association with the port as a member of the Madras Dock Labour Board in 1948, chairman of the Major Ports Commission and as member of the National Harbour Board which had dealt with the problem of expansion of Jawahar Dock.

Appeal to workers: Madras port occupied the position of third largest port in the country due to the efficiency and discipline of the port and other workers. The workers should bring fame to the Jawahar Dock.

Optimum use of berthing capacity: Mr Veerendra Patil, who presided, said that the extension of the Jawahar Dock's length (now 518 metre long and 152 wide) by another 137 metres had been planned to ensure optimum utilisation of its berthing capacity.

The extension would enable it to accommodate three large vessels of

200 metres length on either side at any time against the total of four now. It will also receive lash ships.

Upto port authorities: Mr Patil said that the Government for its part had sanctioned projects like Jawahar Dock's expansion and container terminal and it was upto the port authorities to see that the former was completed in 36 months and the latter in 18 months as scheduled.

Besides Rs. 27.57 crores for the container terminal, sanction had been accorded for the procurement of gantries and a crane.

Referring to the congestion in the port in May he said it should be avoided as the cost of delays to ships had to be borne by importers and exporters.

As in foreign countries berths should wait for ships and not vice versa, he felt.

More tonnage handled: He was happy to note that the tonnage handled in the port in 1980-81 had gone up by 4 per cent to 10.4 million tonnes and that traffic had also increased in the first five months of this year with 437 ships calling compared to 386 ships the previous year for the same period.

It was proposed to achieve a target of 16.1 million tonnes by 1985-86.

Mr S.C.C. Anthony Pillai, President of the Port Trust Employees Union, said that the port would be able to achieve a higher target of 20 million tonnes. The land reclaimed as a result of the Jawahar Dock extension could be put to use for creating a big dry dock, he suggested.

Mr V. Selvaraj, Chairman, Madras Port Trust, welcoming the gathering said that the port was poised to implement its new projects as scheduled.

Mr Kandaswami, Chief Engineer, who read a technical report on the Jawahar Dock extension project, said it would cost Rs. 11.67 crores.

PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL STUDY REVEALS ENERGY WASTE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Jun 81 p 5

[Text]

A NATIONAL Productivity Council (NPC) study has revealed reckless waste of energy in homes, industry, transport and agricultural sector, reports PTI.

Bad planning, outdated industrial equipment, lack of quality control on pumps and engines and primitive cooking stoves are draining the country's energy reserves, according to the study.

Enormous amounts of electricity and diesel are being wasted in the lift irrigation sector because the "capacities of the pumpsets do not match with the irrigation needs." Diesel is also being wasted due to low efficiency (23 to 37 per cent) of pumpsets. In Punjab alone, the wasteful consumption of diesel due to low efficiency is over 100 million litres per annum.

In the other States, diesel pumpsets consume twice as much fuel as they are normally supposed to. The Indian Standards Institution does not prescribe minimum efficiency standards for pumpsets.

Another study conducted by the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) says

that light diesel oil (LDO) worth Rs 150 million can be saved in Gujarat, which accounts for one-third of the LDO consumption for irrigation pumpsets in the country.

The industrial sector is the main consumer of fuel oil. One-fourth of the fuel oil now used can be saved by simply improving the 'house keeping' measures in industry.

According to the NPC, bad planning has also led to energy wastage. Shifting from coal to petroleum and back to coal, has led to "improper utilization of infrastructural development."

Rural electrification done through a centralised system entails a 40 per cent transmission loss in power.

In the homes, the study says, conventional stoves utilise only five per cent of the heat produced by dung or firewood. The kerosene stoves are so inefficient that as much as 60 per cent of the kerosene is just wasted.

TRADE UNION HEAD SCORES TIWARI ILO SPEECH

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Jun 81 p 5

[Text]

All India Trade Union Congress general secretary Indrajit Gupta, MP, has sharply criticised Labour Minister N. D. Tiwari's speech at the 67th ILO conference at Geneva.

He urged all self-respecting trade unions to dissociate from it and protest against the Government's "retrograde" stance at the world forum.

Mr Tiwari had, in his speech, pleaded for exemption of developing countries from compliance with the "standard setting activities" of the ILO, or, alternatively, for diluting the ILO's conventions and recommendations in their applicability to such countries.

Mr Gupta, in a statement on Tuesday, felt this plea revealed a "shameful and dangerous attitude" on the part of the Indian Government and was "harmful to our country's dignity and aspirations".

Mr Tiwari's plea, he said, "means that universally accepted norms relating to collective bargaining, freedom of association, tripartite machinery for industrial relations, social security, etc. need not be observed in the 'special circumstances' of the developing countries".

He said it was not known, who authorised Mr Tiwari to speak on behalf of developing countries. Economic constraints of poorer developing nations were understandable, "but India, with

its powerful public sector and big private monopoly houses collaborating with multi-national corporations, hardly falls in the same category as the numerous small and industrially backward countries of Asia or Africa".

In this context, he was intrigued to know why Mr Tiwari had taken upon himself the "undignified" role of pleading for exemption from even those ILO conventions, which do not require extensive Government financing.

The reason, Mr Gupta said, was not far to seek. The Government of India itself was guilty of non-ratification and non-implementation of a large number of ILO conventions and recommendations. It now wants that even the formal rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining be denied to the Indian working class and its trade unions.

He said since Mrs Gandhi's return to power we were witnessing a massive assault on trade union rights in both the public and private sectors, an aggressively anti-strike attitude, dishonouring of collective agreements to the point of defying the Supreme Court.

All these "reactionary" activities, Mr Gupta maintained, "are in flagrant violation of ILO's 'standards'".

He pointed out the move to amend even the existing social insurance schemes like the Provident Fund and ESI against the workers' interests.

NATIONAL FIRM TO SUPPLY FREIGHTCARS TO VIETNAM

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Jun 81 p 5

[Text]

India has signed a contract valued Rs 11 crores for supply of 300 coal hopper wagons and spares to Vietnam.

The contract, signed in Hanoi by the Projects & Equipment Corporation of India Limited (PEC) and Messers Machinimport of Vietnam on 18 June, is considered as yet another landmark in the highly cordial relations between India and Vietnam.

According to information provided by the PEC in the Capital on Tuesday, this was the second such contract signed with Machinimport, Vietnam. In April, 1978 PEC signed the first contract for supply of 980 wagons, 50 coaches and 1000 bogies for wagons and coaches and spares valued at over Rs 35 crores.

Talking to newsmen, PEC Chairman Vikram Prakash said

the contract had been successfully completed and the last shipment had left on 18 June, the day of signing the new contract.

Mr Prakash said the Vietnamese National Railway have expressed complete satisfaction over the quality of the rolling stock earlier supplied by the PEC. The rolling stock is operating over the entire length and breadth of Vietnam and has made significant impact on the Vietnamese economy so much so that against the initial requirement of 250 wagons the Vietnamese have now signed contract for 300 wagons.

The PEC had so far exported about 7000 wagons and 350 coaches to Hungary, Yugoslavia, South Korea, Poland, Iran, Sri Lanka, East Africa, Malaysia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania, Nepal and Syria.

CSO: 4220/7095

WRITER SEES FAULTS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Jul 81 p 8

[Commentary By B. M. Bhatia: "Food Economy: A Superfluous Distribution System"]

[Text]

THE belief that India is not only short of food but will continue to be so has become so ingrained in our national psyche that we refuse to admit the objective reality which is one of a country with a marginal exportable foodgrain surplus in normal years. It was this surplus that helped us to accumulate reserve stocks which stood at 21 million tonnes by July, 1979. These stocks also enabled the country to tide over the drought of 1979-80.

While stocks in the public sector have now been drawn down to 10 million tonnes, a record harvest of 135 million tonnes—which includes 30 million tonnes of wheat—is expected for the current year. If there is still anxiety on the part of the Government on the front, this is because of low procurement of wheat by official agencies in Punjab and Haryana. The problem is that of feeding the public distribution system through procurement of adequate quantities of foodgrain, particularly wheat, and not of supplying the food needs of the country as a whole from domestic production without resort to imports.

STORAGE LOSSES

Foodgrain production in India in 1978-79 was 131.9 million tonnes gross, or net 115.41 million tonnes after making allowance for seed, cattle-feed, and field and storage losses. This gives a per capita availability of 480.3 grams per day, or 173.3 kgs per year, for human consumption. The calorie equivalent works out to 2,119 as against 2,210 calories

fixed by the Food and Agriculture Organization as the standard per capita nutritional requirement in India.

There was thus a 4.1 per cent deficiency in the normative sense, while in the market sense there was a surplus of 1.3 million tonnes, comprising 0.94 million tonnes of exports and 0.36 million tonnes of addition made during the year to Government stocks. Estimated production being a little over a million tonnes more than in 1978-79 and there being no exports or addition to public agency stocks, the per capita availability in the current year, after taking into consideration the increase in population in the intervening period, would practically be the same as in 1978-79. If the Government fails to procure sufficient foodgrains to feed the public distribution system, it should not pose any danger to the food supply situation as such.

Indeed, the public distribution system has all along been a major source of confusion in discussions on the country's food problem. The system was introduced in the wake of the Bengal Famine of 1943. It was continued into the post-war period and after independence in view of the prevailing acute food shortage in the country. By 1954-55, however, India had become practically self-sufficient in food. All controls and zonal restrictions on food-grain movement were removed. The public distribution system had become superfluous, but events took a historic turn.

TRADE CHANNELS

The P.L. 480 grain agreement was signed with the USA in April, 1956. Under that and subsequent similar agreements, heavy supplies of imported foodgrain began pouring into the country. These supplies could not be absorbed through normal trade channels at prevailing market prices. The network of fair price and ration shops that had been built up earlier came in handy to serve as a conduit for distribution and absorption of the imported grain at throwaway prices. The foundation of a new conception of the public distribution system, as an instrument of providing cheap foodgrains to people in urban areas, was thus laid.

Concessional supplies of grain under PL-480 were stopped in 1965. Fortunately, it was at this time that the Green Revolution began in parts of the country. Meanwhile, foodgrain prices had risen due to strong inflationary pressures in the economy and scarcity of food caused by the drought of 1963-67. This helped to provide the necessary incentive to farmers to use modern inputs and increase production.

The procurement price was kept well below the market price. The argument for fixing a lower procurement price was that lower foodgrain prices would help in keeping the inflationary spiral under control. It was forgotten that the public distribution system handled roughly 10 per cent of the net foodgrain output and that the price charged under that system could not be a decisive

factor in determining prices in the open market. If anything, low procurement prices went against the national interest because they discouraged production and kept down procurement, thereby necessitating imports to fill the gap between offtake from the public distribution system and procurement. The quantum of supplies made through the distribution system to fill this gap was interpreted as representing the overall extent of the food shortage in the economy.

Available evidence at the time pointed to the fact that food imports were being necessitated by the Government's policy of artificially keeping down the procurement price of foodgrains. Imports, which stood at 8.66 million tonnes in 1965-66, steadily declined in the next four years under the impact of the Green Revolution until they reached two million tonnes in 1970-71. In the following year, the country became a net exporter of foodgrains to the extent of 0.49 million tonnes, which was sent to Bangladesh. Meanwhile, the 10-million-tonne stock that was built up earlier was utilized to feed the Bangladesh refugees. Thereafter, the Green Revolution got aborted because of the Government's unhelpful price policy.

The country faced another period of food crisis from 1972-73 to 1974-75 when domestic production fell and imports rose sharply to 7.39 million tonnes in 1974-75 and 6.44 million tonnes in 1975-76. Imports were necessitated by the exigencies of the public distribution system. Had the system not been there, or if a realistic price policy had been followed, the quantum of imports would have been far less. Thus the interests of the country were sacrificed to keep a purposeless public distribution system going.

It is being claimed in some quarters that the public distribution system was responsible for saving the situation during the

drought year of 1979-80. The Economic Survey for instance, asserts: "The buffer stocks and effective management of the public distribution system greatly helped in keeping the price rise under check during 1980-81 despite the severe drought of 1979-80". A little reflection will show that the credit for keeping prices under control should go to the existence of the huge food buffer stock and not to the public distribution system.

OPEN MARKET

Prices of foodgrains in the open market also remained under check and did not show any sharp rise: the price rise in cereals during 1980-81 (up to January 17, 1981) was a mere 10.4 per cent as against a 13.2 per cent rise in the general price index. This is explained by the fact that the existence of a large food buffer stock made speculation by private traders in foodgrains unprofitable. The public distribution system, therefore, had nothing to do with keeping the prices under check in 1979-80 or 1980-81. This is further proved by the fact that as soon as the buffer stock with the Government began shrinking, speculators entered the market and prices in the open market rose.

The country has reached a stage in the growth of agricultural production where it need have no anxiety on the score of feeding its growing population. Periodic shortfalls in production caused by climatic factors can be met with the help of an appropriate buffer stock policy. However, even surplus domestic food production is no remedy against inflation caused by intemperate fiscal and monetary policies of the Government. Nor is the public distribution system, which has become more of a millstone round the neck of the economy than a useful instrument of social and economic policy.

EASTERN NAVAL COMMANDER URGES NAVY EXPANSION

Madras THE HINDU in English 21 Jun 81 p 13

[Text]

MADRAS June 20

Vice-Admiral M. K. Roy, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, said here on Saturday the long-range maritime reconnaissance capability, underwater detecting devices, electronic surveillance and intelligence collection arrangements in the region should be strengthened to monitor the military movements of big Powers.

Admiral Roy, who arrived in the city at the head of a formation of anti-submarine aircraft, Aaze, told newsmen that our continental strategy and maritime policy must be fused. This would necessitate expanding the Navy considerably.

Coordination on ocean issues

We therefore, must realise the enormity of the challenges that lie ahead, in view of the new uses of the seas, and it is for us to exercise some degree of leadership with respect to the development of a co-ordinated and consistent ocean policy, he said.

The Eastern Naval Commander felt that the key to success for such an integrated approach would be "our ability to manage our ocean resources and interests in an organised manner."

There would therefore be need for the integration of all the complex ocean issues which were now being dealt with by various Ministries.

Answering questions, Admiral Roy said whether the country should have an inter-Ministerial committee, a Central coordinating committee or a full-fledged Ministry for ocean management and maritime policy was matter for the Union Government to decide.

In this context, he pointed out, Soviet Russia, the U.S., Japan, Bangladesh, etc., had set up coordinating arrangements.

Hence the setting up of such institutional structures could no longer be delayed if India was to benefit from her geo-economic advantage of sitting atop the warm, rich and strategic Indian Ocean. But regrettably there was a great deal of misunderstanding as to the realm of the possible for resource exploitation and other uses of ocean space.

He felt that the effects of non-planning at this stage could put us at a great disadvantage, in competing for the use of ocean space. "An understanding of the seas around us is essential for utilising the oceans for safe-guarding and promoting both our national security and national development," he said.

CSO: 4220/7082

LAST, BIGGEST LEANDER-CLASS FRIGATE READY TO SAIL

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Jul 81 p 6

[Text]

BOMBAY, July 6—The Indian Navy will acquire one of the most sophisticated vessels capable of performing varied roles in combat ships, aircraft and submarines on Wednesday when INS Vindhyagiri, the last of the six Leander class frigates built by the Mazgaon Dock will be commissioned by Mr Shivraj Patil Minister of State for Defence.

INS Vindhyagiri is a class in itself in the sense that it is the first ship in the world of its size to have such a lethal capacity. Built at a cost of Rs 50 crores nearly 75% of its components are indigenous and it is a great improvement over the first ship in the Leander series manufactured at Mazgaon, INS Nirghati, which was commissioned in 1972.

Vice-Admiral M. P. Awati, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command, briefed reporters on the salient features of the ship today, and said Vindhyagiri could compete with the most modern and sophisticated ships of its class in the world. It was a highly versatile general purpose frigate with a tremendous punch. It carried a large anti-submarine helicopter capable of operating in adverse weather conditions day and night. Integrating a large helicopter was a modest achievement, Admiral Awati said.

Since the construction of frigates started in India, there have been many changes in the capability of weapons and electronic systems for

modern warships. The Indian Navy carried out the necessary design changes without assistance from any consultants in India or abroad.

The keel for INS Vindhyagiri was laid at Mazgaon dock in 1976. The propulsion machinery was made by BHEL, Bhopal. A good proportion of remaining machinery was also made in India by manufacturers, ranging from HAL, Bangalore, to Walchandnagar Industries.

Admiral Awati said addition of Vindhyagiri was a major boost to the capability of the country towards self-sufficiency not only in warship building but in providing an opportunity to industrial units to see their contribution towards naval defence bearing fruit.

INS Vikrant, which is being completely rehailed, is to be recommissioned in a year naval sources say.

Most of the servicing of Vikrant is over and it is now awaiting final touches and arrival of its aircraft. Sea Harriers, it was stated.

The Indian Navy is trying to go in for indigenous manufacture of submarines. Efforts are being made to enter into a contract with West Germany.

The main problem is that of funds. The other relates to the laws of the Federal Republic of Germany, which might prevent it from entering into a contract with India for manufacture of submarines it is learnt.

CSO: 4220/7200

NAVY HOLDS EXERCISES IN BAY OF BENGAL

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Jul 81 p 9

[Article by N. Ram: "U.S. Court Ruling 'Deeply Disturbing'"]

[Text]

WASHINGTON July 2

The U.S. Supreme Court's 7-to-2 decision allowing sweeping powers to the executive to deny citizens the opportunity to travel abroad legally—in the name of national security or foreign policy—has been characterised as deeply disturbing by many constitutional scholars and experts in this country, especially those teaching in law schools.

The majority judgment was written by the Chief Justice, Mr. Warren Burger, in a case involving the revocation by the United States of the passport of Mr. Philip Agee, the former Central Intelligence Agency agent who has performed numerous favours to the truth by speaking out courageously against his former Agency's endeavours round the globe.

The Supreme Court enthusiastically upheld the Government's action against one who has been traveling abroad to expose CIA agents. It held that Mr. Agee's open campaign to destroy the CIA threatened the lives of Government officials abroad and seriously damaged national security.

It ruled that Mr. Agee's words transgressed the line separating constitutionally protected free speech from unprotected action, adding that the authority to draw that line for passport purposes rests exclusively with the Secretary of State.

Freedom subordinate: The freedom (to travel abroad allowed by a passport) is subordinate to national security and foreign policy considerations," wrote

Mr. Burger, a Nixon appointee. "No Governmental interest is more compelling than the security of the nation," history eloquently attests that grave problems of national security and foreign policy are by no means limited to times of formally declared war.

Law professors in places like Harvard, Yale and Princeton have characterised the Supreme Court's ruling in the Agee case as a potential licence for draconian restriction of speech and travel by political dissidents, journalists or others. They point out that the Court went far beyond the particular circumstances of the case.

Professor Laurence H. Tribe, a distinguished constitutional scholar at the Harvard Law School, charges that the U.S. Court "left a gun aimed" at free speech and travel.

Mr. Floyd Abrams, a nationally known lawyer specialising in the defence of free speech, is of the view that the sweep of the decision may be such as to encompass far more than CIA agents who had turned against their Agency.

According to Mr. Mark Lynch, lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, "under the opinion, if the Johnson or Nixon administrations had wanted to pull passports from reporters in Vietnam, the opinion would authorise it. Or if some disarmament person makes a speaking tour through Europe, saying it's a bad thing to deploy nuclear weapons there, the Secretary could say it's inciting opposition to NATO."

Defenders of civil liberties in this country are especially outraged that

immediately under the ruling, sweeping legal authority to deprive a citizen of his passport accrues to none other than Mr. Alexander Haig, Secretary of State, whose track record in this area is rather notorious.

Dissenting judgment: The two dissenting justices in the Supreme Court, Mr. William J. Brennan and Mr. Thurgood Marshall, expressed basically the same objection to the majority ruling as the law professors and experts — the "reach" of the discretion allowed by the Supreme Court in the Agee case was potentially staggering.

"It is important to remember," they warned in their dissenting judgment, "that this decision applies not only to Philip Agee, but also to other citizens who may merely disagree with Government foreign policy and express their views."

Mr. Agee, who lives in Hamburg in West Germany and continues to expose clandestine U.S. activities internationally, said the revocation of his passport by the Carter Administration last year would have "no effect on my work or residence in the Federal Republic of Germany."

The man who served as a CIA agent from 1957 to 1966 has been publishing the names of undercover operatives overseas as part of a campaign against an Agency he regards as an objectionable force. His latest publication is a book exposing the CIA's role in El Salvador and giving the lie to the Reagan Administration's assertions on Soviet and Cuban involvement in the civil war.

"If the Supreme Court justices," Mr. Agee has been quoted as saying about the latest ruling, "think that kind of scholarly analysis can be stopped by taking away my passport, they're just fools."

DEFENSE MINISTRY SOURCES COMMENT ON F-16 SALE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Jul 81 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 3.—The induction of F-16s into the subcontinent by courtesy of the USA via Pakistan has introduced a new element in the security of the region. At the least, it will make it necessary for India to take immediate measures to counter the threat posed to its security by this dynamic combat aircraft.

What adds urgency the problem—apart from the fact that the USA is willing to make off-the-shelf deliveries against cash payments to be made by Pakistan's Arab friends—is the admission by top echelons of the Pakistani leadership that there is no direct threat to that country's security from the Soviet Union.

By implication the only remaining direct threat is from India. The Pakistanis can now turn round and quote General Alexander Haug's latest statement in this regard. Recently, he admitted that apart from the Soviet threat to Pakistan one "perhaps" existed from India.

Defence Ministry sources do not wish to cause panic over the protected Pakistani acquisition of F-16s. But the fact remains that with a range of between 330 to 400 nautical miles at low level this lethal aircraft can hit major targets. According to the sources, at the existing level of the strength of its aircraft India can match any aerial threat from Pakistan.

But the induction of even two squadrons of F-16 could drastically alter the scene. The radar and weapons given to most places of strategic importance include electronic counter measures which are very efficient. But the F-16s have the capacity to jam the electronic counter measures, which can jam radar-controlled

guns and missiles. They will not go into action as a result of jamming by the invading enemy planes.

India has lately taken to electronic counter measures to undo the jamming by the enemy aircraft, but good fliers could take care of that too. One has just to recall the thoroughness with which the Israelis made nonsense of all the Iraqi defensive systems before knocking out their nuclear plant flying almost at tree-top level.

ADVANTAGE

In terms of numbers India today continues to hold a distinct advantage over Pakistan's air might, but what is immediately needed is counter-defensive measures to beat back the challenge posed by the F-16. The Jaguar, Mig 23 and other fighter aircraft are good. But much more, according to experts, will have to be done to strengthen ground defence as well as air superiority.

The policy-makers will have to quickly decide how soon they can get the Mirage 2000. That is, assuming that a decision has in principle been taken in favour of it. As it is, the French Air Force is hoping to induct the Mirage 2000 only by 1983. If India is to continue dithering it may find delivery dates in the distant future.

The Centre has apparently decided against manufacturing Jaguars. It is proposed to go ahead with the first two stages of the agreement with British Aerospace, namely, to accept ready-to-fly aircraft (the first lot is already in service) and to assemble the balance here. This, in turn confirms that Mirage 2000 has or is about

to get the nod. Defence sources believe if that be the case why do we not conclude an agreement with France at the earliest.

The acquisition of F-16 by Pakistan has set the top Air Force officials thinking in terms of a futuristic aircraft—one that would serve the country's needs right into the 90. They are of the view that immediate steps must be initiated to restore the balance in India's favour.

They are not overly worried about a certain number of F-16s joining the Pakistan Air Force. "What can they do from damaging some cities and installations but we, a major country, have to think in terms of the future and we cannot afford to lose any more time", they would seem to suggest. They recalled that Pakistan had set up 13 new forward air bases since 1971 within 60 to 70 miles of the borders. Given its radius of action, an F-16 operating from these bases could cause substantial damage.

Assuming that off-the-shelf deliveries of the F-16 are possible, these sources say, it follows that Pakistan will shortly be sending its pilots for training to the USA. Normally, a Mirage pilot would need about three months to convert to F-16. It would in that case take a year for a F-16 squadron to be operational.

According to these sources, the first Pakistani F-16 squadron should be operational by the middle of next year. By that time direct U.S. supplies of the aircraft under the \$4 billion aid package would become available. This according to these sources, makes an alarming picture and the country will have to act sooner than imagined.

INDIA

DILBAGH SINGH APPOINTED NEW AIR FORCE CHIEF

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Jun 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] Air marshal Dilbagh Singh, Vice-Chief of the Air Staff, has been appointed Chief of the Air Staff with the substantive rank of Air Chief Marshal in succession to Air Chief Marshal I. H. Latif who retires on 31 August, PTI reports quoting an official release.

Born on 10 March 1926, Air Marshal Dilbagh Singh was commissioned into the Indian Air Force on 4 September, 1944.

An outstanding fighter pilot, Air Marshal Dilbagh Singh has the distinction of being the first to command both the transonic and supersonic squadrons of the Indian Air Force.

With a long operational service to his credit, the Air Marshal has flown over 5300 hours on all types of fighter aircraft in the Air Force.

In February, 1956, he completed with distinction day fighter leader's course at the central fighter establishment, Royal Air Force, West Raynham, England.

Subsequently, he went to France for conversion to Mystere aircraft.

In 1961, he attended Royal Air Force Staff College course at Andover. In 1962, he went to the Soviet Union to fly the MiG-21 aircraft and on return, commanded the first supersonic squadron equipped with the MiG-21.

The Air Marshal completed the National Defence College course in 1973.

He was awarded Vayu Sena Medal in 1966 and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 1970 and Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 1977.

CSO: 4220/7095

DELHI REVIEWS AIR FORCE REQUIREMENTS

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Jul 81 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 3

The Government is taking a fresh look at the requirements of the Indian Air Force during the eighties for coping with the acquisition of the very latest F-16 fighter-bombers by Pakistan with Arab money and US assistance.

It is taking steps to finalise the pending deal with France for the manufacture of Mirage-2000 which is still in the last stages of development and, in the meantime, acquire a few more MiG-23 squadrons and perhaps also some MiG-25s from the Soviet Union.

During his recent visit to Paris to attend the biennial air show at Le Bourget, the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal I. H. Latif, had flown in a twin-seater prototype of Mirage-2000 and was greatly impressed by its versatile performance. Earlier, a team of Indian test pilots had flown this aircraft in France.

The Mirage-2000 will not be available for sale to India even in limited numbers till at least 1983, since the French Air Force will have the first priority in obtaining them. It will take another few years for India to tool up for indigenous manufacture under licence.

The Government feels that there is no need for any great hurry in rushing through with the acquisition of these aircraft, since Pakistan is going to take at least 18 months to train its air crew in the U.S. and form the first operational F-16 squadron.

According to current indications, the 36 F-16 aircraft initially offered by the US to help Pakistan raise two squadrons will not be in service till the end of 1983, assuming that there will be no unexpected delays in the delivery schedules.

It remains to be seen whether the present US commitment extends beyond the first two squadrons to the four sought by Pakistan, involving the sale of altogether some 80 aircraft including some trainer planes.

If the Reagan administration adheres to the present rate of delivery schedules, and does not treat the supply of these F-16s as part of a crash programme, there will be enough time for India to gear up its own purchase programme to meet this challenge with quiet confidence.

The Mirage-2000 is rated to be as good, if not better in some respects, as the American-built F-16 as interceptory and interdutory roles as a dual performance fighter-bomber. The French

manufacturers are already working on Mirage-4000 as a successor to this highly versatile aircraft which will be available during the 1990s.

The present Indian thinking is to give up the Jaguar manufacturing programme after buying or assembling altogether 100 to 115 aircraft for forming five to six operational squadrons of deep penetration strike role, then switch on to a part purchase and progressive manufacture of Mirage-2000 with an option to go in for Mirage-4000 during the next decade.

The present gap in the fighter-bomber role is sought to be filled by updating more MiG-21s with the latest electronic systems, acquiring more MiG-23s and even purchasing one more MiG-25 squadron.

The French have offered to lease, as the British did as part of the Jaguar deal, a few squadrons from the current Mirage series to meet India's more immediate requirements pending the commencement of the supply of Mirage-2000s in another two years' time. But India sees no great urgency for entering into such an interim arrangement since the IAF will be able to face more immediately the threat of Pakistan's new F-16 acquisitions with its present equipment.

CSO: 4220/7185

EDITORIAL NOTES NAVY'S PROGRESS, INADEQUACIES

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Jul 81 p 8

[Editorial: "Naval Perceptions"]

[Text]

THE CURRENT MAJOR exercise by the Indian Navy in the Bay of Bengal is designed to test the security limitations at Visakhapatnam, an important naval as well as industrial centre, and the sprawling Andamans and Nicobars which form the easternmost island outstations in the country. The simulated operations have been used as an occasion to create a greater public awareness of the new firepower that the naval branch of the defence services has acquired. The bases from which the Indian ships operate are Bombay, Goa, Cochin, Visakhapatnam, Calcutta and Port Blair. With a complement of about 47,000 men and an allocation of about 10 per cent of the defence budget, the Indian Navy cannot be considered as adequate in relation to the 6,100 kilometres of coastline, 10 major ports, 300 minor ports and the recently added strategically important offshore Bombay High oilfields. The extended economic zone of 320 km from the coast means that 1.9 million sq km of ocean surface needs to be policed to foil trespassers.

It was only in the 1971 war with Pakistan that the navy played a tactically significant role, although most of the battles were on land on both the eastern and western fronts. There are some who question the military usefulness

of the aged Vikrant, the only aircraft carrier that India has. The eight submarines in use have become outdated and their replacement has been delayed by long-drawn-out negotiations. Of the two dozen frigates, eight are modern. And here Mazagon Dock, Bombay, has shown its paces in progressing rapidly in the indigenous manufacture of hardware. The construction time for a frigate has been cut down to as little as a year, a span which compares favourably even with European shipyards. Also, the Indian-designed Godavari class vessel packs much more clout than the original British Leander type on which the new frigate is based. The ratio of indigenisation has reached a high 60 per cent from the 18 per cent of the first Indian-built frigate, the Nilgiri. The naval air arm is almost entirely dependent on foreign supplies and many more missile-fitted small ships are needed. The navy is also poorly equipped in the matter of long-distance reconnaissance aircraft. Maritime considerations might not appear to be a dominant aspect in wars of short duration, as was the case in the last three conflicts with Pakistan. But it would not be prudent to plan the defence strategy wholly on the assumption that the battles India may have to fight will be brief.

CSO: 4220/7185

BRIEFS

AICC-I JOINT SECRETARY--Mr Bhim Singh, joint secretary of the AICC-I, has resigned his post alleging 'sabotage' of his election campaign against Mr Rajiv Gandhi at Amethi by a few agents within the party. In this circumstances, he felt it was his moral duty to resign. However, the Congress-U leaders said they had not so far received his resignation. Mr Bhim Singh's recent moves for a merger of the Congress-U with other opposition parties, including the BJP, was not favoured by his party colleagues. According to them, no responsible leader could take initiative in this regard without discussions at the proper party forums. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Jul 81 p 1]

OIL DRILLING VESSEL--India will buy an oil drilling vessel for Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) from West Germany, reports UNI. A decision to this effect was recently taken by the ONGC after scrutinising the applications received from different countries in response to a global tender, according to official sources. The vessel is expected to cost over 60 million dollars. The vessel will be used in the Indian Ocean and will have the capacity to cover a depth of 180 metres. Besides this, India has also ordered for two more jack up rigs from Singapore for ONGC. Another jack up rig vessel named 'Sagar Pragati' bought by the ONGC from France is now on way to India. The new vessel which left France on 2 July will reach the Indian Ocean by September next. This vessel will be used for exploration work on the east coast by the ONGC. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Jul 81 p 2]

WEDDING BOYCOTT PLEA--Youth Congress-U leaders have requested president Sanjiva Reddy and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi not to attend the wedding of Prince Charles in view of the racial violence in UK. In a statement, Youth Cong-U general secretary Satish Verma said on Wednesday that the widespread violence was "preplanned" by the Thatcher Government. The attack on some Indian citizens in diplomatic services showed that the hooligans had the fullest support of the Government. The Youth Cong-U has requested Mr Sanjiva Reddy to take up the matter with the UK Government. The youths will also hold demonstrations in front of the UK High Commission in New Delhi, a statement said. In a letter to Mr Sanjiva Reddy, Mr Bhim Singh, joint secretary of the Congress-U, decried Mrs Gandhi for seeking an invitation "in favour of her son" to attend this 'international cocktail party.' He also expected that Mr Reddy will take some "unique and exemplary" steps so that 'the danger posed to this country by a family rule could be averted.' [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Jul 81 p 7]

CONFERENCE ON U.S. POLICY--Bombay, July 8: About 4,000 intellectuals from all over India are expected to take part in the convention being organised here on August 22 and 23 by the all-India lawyers' conference. The convention is being organised to focus attention on the dangerous policy being pursued by the U.S. in supplying Pakistan with sophisticated arms. In a statement here today, Mr. B. A. Desai, general secretary of the convention reception committee, alleged that the arms supply was aimed at shifting the cold war to Asian soil. Apart from the chief minister, Mr. A. R. Antulay, a number of prominent people, including Mr. Justice B. A. Masodekar, Mr. Naval Tata, Mr. Ashok Birla, Mr. Nusli Wadia, Mrs. Sharyu Daftary, Mr. Raja Kulkarni, Mr. Sunil Gayaskar, Mr. Sunil Dutt and Messrs Kalyanji Anandji, are associated with the proposed convention, Mr. Desai added. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Jul 81 p 7]

BRITISH RIOTS PROTESTED--A group of people, who were protesting against "attacks on Asians and Africans in Britain, threw stones at the British Council Library and British Airways office in Central Calcutta on Thursday afternoon. A number of glasspanes were damaged before the police dispersed the group. The All India Students' Federation, in a statement on Thursday, said that a demonstration was held near the British Council Library and British Airways office during the day. They condemned the "racist attitude of the British people" and demanded political status for the Irish prisoners. Members of the Communist Party of India, Calcutta District Committee, held a separate demonstration near the British Deputy High Commissioner's office on Ho-Chi-Minh Sarani, Calcutta, on Thursday, in protest against the attacks by "racist" and "neo-fascists skinheads" on Asian and African dwellers in Britain. They handed over a memorandum to the officials at the British Mission, demanding withdrawal of the British Nationality Bill, preventive measures to stop racist attacks and punishment of the "culprits". [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Jul 81 p 1]

ADVISERS TO ASSAM GOVERNOR--New Delhi, July 9. The Centre has appointed two senior South Indian officials as Advisers to the Governor of Assam to assist him in the administration of the State during President's rule. One is Mr. R. V. Subramanian, who belonged to the Assam cadre of IAS, before he retired as Secretary of the Ministry of Energy at the Centre. He served as one of the Advisers to the Governor of Tamil Nadu during President's rule after the dismissal of Mr. M. Karunanidhi's Government. The other one is Mr. V. Natarajan, who belongs to the Orissa cadre of IAS and is still in service. The Governor, Mr. L. P. Singh, who was due to retire soon after serving in this difficult post for 7-1/2 years, has been asked to continue for the present. [By G. K. Reddy] [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Jul 81 p 1]

PETITION AGAINST MUKHERJEE--New Delhi, July 9. The Delhi High Court today adjourned indefinitely the hearing of a writ petition challenging the continuance of Mr. Pranab Kumar Mukherjee as a member of the Rajya Sabha and of the Central Cabinet. A Division Bench of the High Court consisting of Mr. Justice Dalip K. Kapur and Mr. Justice Charanjit Takwar adjourned consideration of the petition since the matter had been referred to the Election Commission by the President. The petitioner, Mr. S. S. Goyal of Delhi University, had contended that Mr. Mukherjee had no legal authority to continue as a member of the Rajya Sabha representing West Bengal since he had migrated to Gujarat with effect from April 17, 1980. The Division Bench said the petitioner was at liberty to reopen the case after the Election Commission decided on the issue.--UNI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Jul 81 p 9]

RUSSIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES--Bombay, July 7: The Indo-Soviet Cultural Society (ISCUS), Bombay, will conduct from the fourth week of this month classes in Russian language at five centres in Bombay in view of growing economic co-operation between the two countries and the consequent need for Russian-knowing Indians to work as translators and interpreters. The trade turnover between India and the USSR had reached Rs. 2,000 crores last year and is expected to be doubled by 1985, it is stated. One-year certificate course and two-year diploma course of the All-India Institute of Russian language, New Delhi, will be conducted in English and Marathi. While the centres at Fort, Matunga, Bandra, Vile Parle and Parel will have the English medium, the one at Goregaon will be in Marathi medium. The Union Ministry of education has also decided to compile a directory of Russian-knowing Indians who are specialists in different subjects, says a ISCUS handout. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Jul 81 p 5]

CPI-M VETERAN DIES--Agartala, July 1 (PTI)--The veteran CPM leader and freedom fighter, Mr Satish Chakrabarti, died at his residence at Khowai subdivisional town in the West Tripura district yesterday, after a prolonged illness. He was 83 and a bachelor. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Jul 81 p 9]

REDDY TO WEDDING--New Delhi, July 1--It has been decided that the President, Mr N. Sanjiva Reddi, will represent India at the wedding of Prince Charles in London at the end of this month. The Government is trying to combine the President's trip to London with state visit to Ireland, if it can be arranged at short notice. At one stage, the Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, herself was thinking of going to London for the royal wedding, since it would have given her an opportunity to break journey in Paris for a meeting with the new French President, Mr Francois Mitterrand to keep up the continuity of Indo-French relations. As a token of his desire for closer relations with India, President Mitterrand is sending his Foreign Minister, Mr Claude Cheysson, to Delhi shortly to establish contact with Mrs Gandhi and the External Affairs Minister, Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao. Mr Mitterrand is keen on expanding the close political and economical relationship with India established by the previous French Government. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Jul 81 p 1]

GHANA SEEKS TECHNICAL COOPERATION--New Delhi, July 2--Mr M. P. Ansah, Ghana's Minister for Industries, science and technology, told the Association of Indian Engineering Industry today that his country would seek technical cooperation from India in setting up plants for iron and steel hydro-electric power, fertilizer, food processing sugar and for establishing industrial estates. He said that after visiting various engineering companies, his delegation was impressed with India's capability in engineering. He felt the AIEI could assist Ghana in development of engineering industries and setting up an economically viable base for industrial development. The Minister indicated that his country was giving priority to development of the iron and steel industry, agriculture and hydel power. Since India was a member of the African Development Bank it could help Ghana in getting adequate funds for various development projects. Mr S. S. Kanwar, chairman of the AIEI's northern region, emphasized the scope for establishment of joint ventures and technical collaboration with Ghana in fields like tractors, small scale and cottage industries, vehicle assembly and manufacture and sugar plants. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Jul 81 p 9]

BENGAL WORLD BANK--Jalpaiguri, July 2--The World Bank will provide Rs 45 crores to the West Bengal Government to take up an afforestation scheme by the State Forest Directorate, official sources said here yesterday, reports PTI. According to a senior forest official, the scheme is aimed at social forestry on land along roads and embankment sides. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Jul 81 p 9]

REQUEST TO SHEIKH--Srinagar, July 2--The Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Sheikh Abdullah, and Mr H. N. Bahuguna held detailed discussions here on the overall political development in the country, as well as in Jammu and Kashmir, since Mrs Gandhi's return to power. Mr Bahuguna, who made a sudden air-dash here on Monday, held two rounds of talks with Sheikh Abdullah during which, according to sources close to them, Mr Bahuguna appealed to the Sheikh to lead combined Opposition front against the Congress(I) Central Government, and thereby frustrate all the ruling party's reported plans to topple non-Congress(I) State governments in the country. Sheikh Abdullah has, however, reportedly told Mr Bahuguna that he will take a final decision only after holding detailed talks with his ministerial colleagues and leaders of his ruling National Conference Party. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Jul 81 p 14]

IRANIAN AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE--Iran's Ambassador to India Abol Fazel Mojtahedi has apparently been removed from his post, reports PTI. Mr Mojtahedi, who was accredited to the Government here since 19 December, 1979, left India some days ago for Dubai, telling his friends that he was going to Iran from there. He informed the Foreign Office here that his "mission in India was over." A recent communication from the Iran Embassy here to the Government, described Mr Mojtahedi as ex-Ambassador, His successor has not been announced yet. He left India around the time Mr Bani Sadr was being removed from his post as Iran's President but it is not clear whether his going back is linked to events in Teheran. Another senior Iranian diplomat has also been called back. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Jul 81 p 1]

FIRST PRATAPGARH TRACTOR--Lucknow, July 2--The first 28 HP tractor from the assembly line of the public sector tractor manufacturing unit, Auto Tractors Limited, Pratapgarh, came out today. The first two tractors manufactured by the factory are to be put on an intensive trial. Addressing a meeting on the occasion, Minister for Industries Niaz Hasan said the Government was promoting industrial development in the backward areas of the State to utilise the locally available resources and to generate more employment opportunities. Mr Hasan said a survey was being carried out for setting up industrial units at Kohraur, Rampur, Derwa and Kunda areas of Pratapgarh district. The 28 HP tractor will consume less diesel as it is small in size and light, he said. It can be used in gardening and also in small farms. Besides, it can operate all agricultural implements generally operated by a 35 HP tractor. The whole project has cost Rs 18.88 crores and will turn out 500 tractors this year. The cost of a tractor is Rs 62,000. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Jul 81 p 4]

HARYANA AKALI DAL--Amritsar, July 2 (PTI)--Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, president, Akali Dal (L) today nominated Mr Nazir Singh Jind, as president of the Haryana Akali Dal(L). Earlier the party working committee had authorised Sant Longowal to nominate the officebearers of the Haryana unit. Mr Chur Singh and Mr Anokh Singh Baloo, members Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC)

were nominated as vice-presidents and Mr Joginder Singh and Mr Mehanga Singh as general secretaries. The Sant also constituted a four-member committee comprising Mr Nazir Singh, Mr Dara Singh, Mr Chur Singh and Mr Raghbir to select the other members of the working committee of Haryana unit. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Jul 81 p 4]

RURAL CREDIT PANEL--A high level committee, under the chairmanship of the secretary to the Planning Commission, is being constituted to review the flow of credit to the weaker sections, reports UNI. The committee would include representatives of the Department of Banking, Reserve Bank of India, and ministries dealing with programmes for alleviation of poverty. The constitution of the committee follows a recent meeting with State representatives to review the progress of the integrated rural development programme. At the meeting, the States expressed their difficulties in obtaining credit from the banks. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Jul 81 p 5]

ANDHRA PRADESH EXTREMISTS--New Delhi, July 3--A five-member team of the Assam movement leaders is expected to visit the Indo-Pakistan border shortly to compare and evaluate the adequacy of the steps taken and proposed to be taken on the Bangladesh border to check infiltration. The team comprising two members of the All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad and three of the All-Assam Students Union (AAGSP) might visit the border on Sunday, according to AAGSP sources. The movement leaders did not attend a general meeting suggested for today by Home Ministry officials on measures taken to prevent infiltration into Assam from across the Bangladesh border, saying such a meeting would be useful after a visit to the Indo-Pakistan border. Meanwhile the current round of negotiations between the movement leaders and the Government will be resumed tomorrow--PTI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Jul 81 p 1]

RURAL PLAN MONITORING--To ensure proper implementation and continuous monitoring of special programmes like Integrated Rural Development and National Rural Employment, the Union Ministry of Rural Reconstruction has allocated area-wise responsibilities to its six senior officers, reports PTI. The six officers and their areas are as follows: Mr G. L. Bailur (UP Bihar, Karnataka, Goa and Dadra and Nagar Haveli), Mr P. G. Murlidharan (Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Kerala, Pondicherry, and Lakshadweep), Mr B. K. Sharma (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi), Mr R. K. Rath, (Rajasthan, Orissa, West Bengal and Sikkim), Mr J. N. Kaul (Madhya Pradesh, J. and K Punjab, Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh) and Mr M. K. Kaw (Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur Tripura, Mizoram, Assam, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Meghalay). [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Jul 81 p 5]

ANDHRA PRADESH MINISTER OUSTED--Hyderabad, July 4 (UNI)--The Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr T. Anjiah, today took over the home and prisons portfolios from Mr Prabhakara Reddy who had been under a cloud of controversy following allegations of alleged links with a gang leader in Hyderabad. A Raj Bhavan communique announced that Mr Reddy would be in charge of finance and planning. He would also look after sport councils, small savings, state lotteries and bureau of economics and statistics. Mr Anjiah has been holding the finance portfolio after the death of Mr G. Rajaram. Mr Rajaram died in a car accident on May 10 last. Since then, his portfolios were being held by the chief minister. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Jul 81 p 1]

RAJIV TO LONDON--New Delhi, July 4 (PTI)--Mr Rajiv Gandhi and his wife, Mrs Sonia Gandhi will attend the wedding of Prince Charles in London on July 29. India will be represented at the wedding by President Sanjiva Reddy. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Jul 80 p 13]

EXTREMISTS RETAINED--Hyderabad, July 4 (UNI)--Two extremists, N. Somi Reddy and P. Krishnamoorthy, were detained yesterday under the National Security Act in Khammam district. On Thursday, five CPI (ML) members were held under the NSA. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Jul 81 p 9]

RAJASTHAN INTUC EXPULSION--Jaipur, July 4 (PTI)--The working committee of the Rajasthan unit of the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) today decided to expel one of its senior leaders Mr Damodar Maurya from the organisation. General secretary of the State unit of the INTUC B. Chaudhary told newsmen after the meeting that Mr Maurya, general secretary of the State's biggest power worker's trade union 'Prantiya Vidyut Mandal Mazdoor Federation' was indulging in the anti-party activities. However Mr Maurya has challenged the authority of the working committee to take such a decision. He said the present working committee was not an elected body as no election had been held since the last seven years and it had no constitutional authority. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Jul 81 p 5]

ASSAM COMMUNISTS SPLIT--Gauhati, July 5--The formation of Assam unit of the All-India Communist Party was announced here today, after a State-level convention of a section of the Communist Party of India workers including a National Council member, 10 State Council members and 22 district unit members who were stated to have resigned from the party reports UNI. The convention set up an organizing committee with Mr Dulal Khound and Mr Awani Barthakur as joint secretaries and decided to form similar committees in all districts to hold the first State conference early next year. A resolution unanimously adopted at the convention and released to the Press, said the CPI leadership was "deviating from the basic political line and following a Left sectarian path surrendering its ideological and political position to CPI(M) blackmail." Fifty delegates participated in the convention. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Jul 81 p 9]

STEEL PLANT EXPANSION--Burgapur, July 5--Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Union Minister for Commerce, Steel and Mines, announced late last week that the Alloy Steels Plant here would be expanded. The capacity of the plant would be 260,000 tons a year from the present 160,000 tons. However, he did not indicate when the work would begin. Referring to the expansion and modernization scheme of the Durgapur Steel plant, the Minister said that the Government had agreed in principle about the necessity of implementing the scheme and he expected a decision some time towards the end of this year. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Jul 81 p 15]

FORMER CPI-ML LEADER--Siliguri, July 6--Mr Dipak Biswas, stated to be a former CPI(M-L) secretary, was murdered by alleged Naxalites at Bidhan Market here today, according to the police, reports PTI. The assailants, shouting "Charu Mazumdar zindabad" and other Naxalites slogans, escaped through the crowded market. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Jul 81 p 9]

INDIA-THAILAND CONSORTIUM--New Delhi, July 6--India and Thailand have agreed to form a consortium to work out details of closer economic and industrial cooperation, Mr Charanjit Chanana, Minister of State for Industry, told a Press conference here today, reports UNI. The consortium idea is an off-shoot of the three-day conference of the Economic and Social Conference for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok last week. India was represented by Mr Charanjit Chanana and the Industry Ministry's Secretary, Mr S. M. Ghosh. The conference discussed ways and means of achieving larger economic cooperation between ESCAP countries. In his talks with the Thai Minister of Industry, the consortium idea took shape. Mr Chanana said the three fields in which there could be cooperation had been identified as petro-chemicals, cement and paper. India had sought more details on incentives and joint ventures in these and other areas. He said the Indian side in the consortium would be headed by the Secretary, Industrial Development. The consortium will take final shape after other details as sought from the Thai Government were available. He said the consortium would comprise officials of the two countries, entrepreneurs and experts. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Jul 81 p 6]

KERALA VICE CHANCELLOR--Trivandrum, July 6--Dr A. V. Varughese, Professor of English, Bentley College, Massachusetts University, U.S., will be the new Vice-Chancellor of the Kerala University. His appointment was officially announced by the Chancellor and the Kerala Governor, Mrs Jothi Vencatachellum today. Dr Varughese's name was one among the four suggested by the members of the vice-chancellor selection committee on June 30. Born in Thiruvalla on August 7, 1930, Dr Varughese graduated in English from the Travancore University in 1951. He got a gold medal. He took his M.A. in English from the Madras University and later worked as a lecturer in Mar Thoma College, Thiruvella, for two years before leaving for the United States. He took his doctorate in English from Denver in Colorado in 1964 and did research for three years at the Harvard University. He joined the Bentley College as Assistant Professor of English in 1968 and became the Professor in 1975. The present Vice-Chancellor of the Kerala University, Dr V. K. Sukumaran Nayar's term expires on July 16. The Vice-Chancellor has a four-year tenure. Dr Varughese has two publications to his credit--"Sweet Silent Thoughts" and "A Story of Shakespeare." [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Jul 81 p 9]

OIL FROM COAL--Rewa, MP, July 6 (UNI)--A proposal to produce petrol and diesel from coal has been revived and a plant for this purpose is likely to be established soon at Singrauli, the coal mining town located 160 km east of Rewa. This was hinted by Mr Nirmal Singh, general manager of the government-owned Singrauli coalfields, at a high-level meeting of the officials of the central coalfields, National Thermal Power Corporation and the Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh Government, at a meeting last week at Morva, the headquarters of the coal-fields. An earlier Rs 700-crore project proposed at Singrauli was abandoned as the government found the newly developed German technology too costly for the manufacture of the petroleum products from coal. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Jul 81 p 5]

TEAM IN HUNGARY--Moscow, July 8 (PTI)--A trade union delegation from India led by Mr Inderjit Gupta, general secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress, is now on a visit to Hungary, reports Tass from Budapest quoting MTI news agency. The delegation was received on Monday by All-Hungary Trade Union Council general secretary Sandor Gaspar. Their talks related to the trade union movement in the two countries and cooperation between the two organisations. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Jul 81 p 3]

KASHMIR CONGRESS-I--New Delhi, July 9 The Congress (I) in Jammu and Kashmir is to be strengthened to meet the challenges effectively. While the party chief, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has directed that all measures be taken to gear up the organisation at the grass-root level, Mr. Vasantrao Patil, AICC (I) general secretary, has only recently pointed out the utterances of the present leaders of the ruling National Conference are becoming increasingly communal. The PCC (I) president, Mufti Mohammad Sayed, told newsmen today, after meeting Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Rajiv Gandhi in the last two days, that a massive drive was being launched to strengthen the organisation in view of the assembly elections. He reiterated the demand that the term of the state assembly should be reduced from six to five years in keeping with the national pattern. The assembly elections are due in 1983, according to the six-year term. If the term is reduced, these elections will be held next year. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 Jul 81 p 9]

DELEGATION TO ULAN BATOR--New Delhi, July 9 (PTI): The Union minister of supply, Mr. Bhagwat Jha Azad, left here this morning for Ulan Bator at the lead of a three-member Indian delegation taking part in the 60th anniversary celebrations of the Mongolian people's revolution. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 Jul 81 p 14]

CSO: 4220/7258/7261

POLITICAL STATUS OF ABET EXAMINED

Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian 27 Jun 81 p 14

[Text] Will Abdullah Eteng be remembered because of the electoral agreement of 1977 or because he is regarded as having deviated from the line of the Indonesian Democracy Party [PDI]? Eteng says, "I will become a writer."

The man who is usually called Pak Abet now can no longer be encountered in Parliament. By the terms of a letter addressed to the president, dated 6 June 1981, and signed by General Chairman Soenawar Soekowati and Deputy Secretary General Jusuf Merukh, the Executive Council of the PDI has canceled the membership of Abdullah Eteng as a member of the PDI faction in Parliament and has proposed the appointment of Dr Panangian Siregar, chairman of the PDI Regional Council for North Sumatra, as his replacement.

In this way Eteng follows five members of the PDI faction in Parliament who had previously experienced a similar fate: Usep Ranawijaya, Abdul Madjid, Mrs D. Walandouw, Santoso Donoseputro, and Sulomo. The five of them were subjected to a recall by the PDI last February, only 1 month after Soenawar Soekowati succeeded in winning the post of general secretary of the party.

When he represented the electorate of North Sumatra, Abdullah Eteng, 66 years old, was known as a people's representative who liked to chat and defend the rights of people whom he regarded as having been mistreated, particularly when matters affecting land rights were concerned. For example, he spoke up in the cases affecting Gunung Bokor, Siria-ria, and Jengawah. As a result it was believed that he would be replaced because of his hardline attitude, which was regarded as making the position difficult for the Executive Council of the PDI. However, the then chairman of the Executive Council of the PDI, Hardjantho Sumodisastro, denied this.

Then a story began to circulate that the replacement of Eteng was only a small part of a larger commitment. It was said that during the election campaign of 1977 and agreement was reached between Abdullah Eteng, number one candidate of the PDI in North Sumatra, and T. D. Pardede, who was number three candidate (the number two candidate at the time was Sabam Sirait). The substance of the written agreement, witnessed by Sanusi Hardjadinata and Usep Ranawijaya, included the following: when Eteng was elected, his position as a member of Parliament [DPR] would be turned over to Pardede, while his membership in the People's Consultative Council [MPR] would continue to be held by Eteng.

T. D. Pardede also confirmed this. "The agreement indeed exists. And that is customary in politics. However, all of that is in the past. If Pak Eteng wants to continue sitting in Parliament, let him," said the well-known North Sumatran businessman to TEMPO last week. Hardjantho also confirmed that there was a commitment to this effect. According to him, the former Executive Council never implemented the commitment. "The commitment remained a commitment. If it was not implemented, who could be believed in the future?" he said. Recalling Eteng, according to Hardjantho, also meant satisfying the desires of Eteng's electoral district, for in mid-May, 1981, the PDI Regional Executive Council for North Sumatra had sent a letter, turning over the resolution of the Eteng affair to the Central Executive Council.

However, according to the chairman of the North Sumatra Regional Executive Council of the PDI, Dr Panangian Siregar, it was specifically the Central Executive Council of the PDI which exerted pressure for Eteng to be recalled. According to him, after the Second Congress of the party the Central Executive Council asked that the North Sumatra Regional Executive Council send a letter urging the recall of Eteng. Because the Regional Executive Council disregarded the request, the Central Executive Council last March again urged that the resolution of this question be turned over to the Central Executive Council.

The former chairman of the Central Executive Council of the PDI, Usep Ranawijaya, admits having been a witness to the signature of the agreement. The commitment, according to him, was entered into because there was a belief that Eteng could devote himself to leading the party in North Sumatra. However, it turned out that, due to a number of "obstacles," leading the party as a special matter was not an effective offer, as Eteng would not always need to be in North Sumatra. Apart from that Pardede himself subsequently did not become a member of Parliament and did not demand his rights.

There was another reason. The deputy secretary general of the Central Executive Council of the PDI, Jusuf Merukh, moved in. According to this view, Eteng had moved very far from the party line. "Eteng actively moved around the party branch offices, influencing Indonesian Nationalist Party (PNI) leaders not to support the PDI in the coming elections. Not only that. He was actively moving toward the Golput group. And a lot of people knew this," Merukh said. However, a number of Merukh's friends in the Central Executive Council itself turned out not to know it. "I never heard that. What I heard was that Pak Eteng would continue helping the PDI," one of them said. Hardjantho also contradicted Merukh.

When he met with TEMPO reporter Monaris Simangunsong last Saturday [20 June], Abdullah Eteng himself seemed calm. He was sitting on a plastic chair on the terrace of his home at Kilometer 12.5 on the Medan-Tanjung Morawa highway. He was wearing shorts, and his shirt was open. While looking at his clove, coconut, and rambutan trees in his garden, which runs alongside the road in front of his house, he said: "For a long time I have been mentally prepared for being recalled."

Eteng knew he would be recalled, because he belonged to a group which opposed the holding of the Second Congress of the PDI last January. He admitted that he was closely associated with the "Group of Four." Regarding his being recalled, Abdullah Eteng will not protest. However, he wants the PDI leadership to tell the

voters "what I have done wrong." "There should never be anyone who would think that I was recalled because I was involved with the PKI or the Darul Islam," he said. It appears that Eteng is very popular in North Sumatra.

What are Eteng's plans? "I will become a writer. I have brought 250 kg of books from Jakarta. For 6 months I want to broaden my knowledge. After that I will write in a newspaper as proof of my unquenchable struggle for the people," he said. He said further, "I have a 2 hectare garden. I will work it myself," said the former regent of Asahan, Labuhan Batu, Tanah Karo, and Deli Serdang, between 1946 and 1963.

5170

CSO: 8127/1480

AFRICAN CORRESPONDENT VISITS DK-CONTROLLED ZONE

Describes Conditions

Dakar LE SOLEIL in French 10 Jul 81 p 11

[Article by Bara Diouf]

[Text] There is a striking contrast between Thailand and Kampuchea. On one side is a prosperous country which enjoys peace and a stability propitious for development activities, and on the other is a nation bled white, ruined by years of war and foreign occupation.

As soon as the border is crossed, after the final administrative formalities under the eyes of the indifferent and complacent Thai army, one sees the Kampuchean tragedy in all its nakedness and horror. Everything is different. On the other side it is virtually a savannah dotted with trees, rice-fields and hamlets where draft animals are working unwillingly. Here, in Kampuchea, as if by the work of a magician's wand, there is dense forest, jungle, a hostile nature which is loath to submit to the presence and the hand of man. The group of Kampuchean guerrillas who welcome me, machine-guns slung over their shoulders, throw surprised and curious looks at me, at the same time as they express sentiments of mingled recognition and pride. Five minutes of walking among the giant trees, and suddenly there is a village, and in this village, which for two weeks was my base of operations, a camp specially prepared for transient guests who, like myself, come to investigate the realities of Democratic Kampuchea.

Canvas and Pataugas [rubber-soled canvas shoe]

The first necessity was to swap three-piece suits and shoes for military canvas and pataugas. No electricity, no asphalt roads, no concrete. The village consists of about a hundred bamboo huts. The roofs are made of straw, like in some regions of Africa. But everything is carefully put together, even if the penury is apparent. The men, all those guerrillas, are busy at domestic chores, or stand guard, rifle at their shoulder, or prepare for commando expeditions against positions still under enemy occupation.

The weaponry is light. Automatic rifle of Chinese make, attack grenades, and bazookas.

The average age is 40. This is understandable, because only the able-bodied were able to flee the towns and what remains of the rural areas under Vietnamese occupation to join the resistance which is organized out of bases close to the Thai border. But there are young people, boys and girls, who busy themselves at little chores, take care of getting provisions, and provide liaison with the guerrillas, especially during military actions. These take place daily, and preferably at night.

Man and Beast

The most spectacular is the one by Maj Bongnig that liberated Ostroular. He is a fascinating guerrilla! A peasant and the son of peasants, today in the liberation struggle he is handling responsibilities of which doubtless he never dreamed when, as a child, he ambled in the muddy rice-fields of Battambang.

I had to go 50 km on the back of an elephant to join him in his den from which he directs the equivalent of a battalion. He does not speak French, but communicates in Khmer, his mother tongue, which he also writes. His education? Somewhere in China. Married, childless, he is devoting his life to the restoration of Cambodia. His men regard him with respectful admiration.

I have always asked myself what is a hero. Not the kind in books, who embellish everything, but a hero in real life with his anguish, his fears, the trials he has gone through and the ones he still has to face. Maj Bongnig's camp is situated on the banks of a river in the middle of a forest of large trees. The same huts, the same nakedness, the same bamboos. Here nature dominates everything. The foot-path that leads to it weaves between clumps of impenetrable vegetation, and skips over streams. Every hundred meters a group of guerrillas, on patrol, crosses our path. Here you live on your feet, 24 hours a day, weapons ready.

Destroyed Emplacements

The enemy is far away. But you never know. He could always try a suicidal attack to reconquer lost ground. The elephant laboriously moves his heavy mass through the trees. The elephant-driver, an 18-year-old Kampuchean, speaks to him in a language made of strange sounds. One senses a mute understanding, a complicity between man and beast. The strict instructions are not to go further than 10 meters from the path. It is a zone which was once occupied by the Vietnamese, and it is covered with treacherous mines, buried by the enemy to provide warning against raids by Kampuchean commandos. One of them exploded some 20 meters from the column I had joined, but fortunately without doing any damage. A tree-branch, torn off by the wind, had touched it and caused it to explode.

The day after my meeting with Maj Bongnig and his men, he honored me by leading me to the site where some of his exploits took place: the liberation of Rin mountain and the destruction of the Vietnamese heliport. Fifty kilometers march through the jungle, and suddenly appears the mountain. The terrain is scattered with enormous blocks of basaltic stones, barely visible in the dense vegetation. All along the tortuous trail leading to our destination are destroyed emplacements, abandoned casemates, the debris of war materiel left by the Vietnamese in their retreat.

Ostroular. It was the conqueror's pride and feeling of invincibility that led the Vietnamese army of occupation to try to use this strategic position to break the spirit of the guerrillas. Imagine, in effect, a hill some 600 meters high. Bristling with recoilless artillery, it overlooks an immense forest which stretches all the way to the Thai border. From there, one dominates the Kampuchean guerrilla country. Bursts of artillery not only upset life in the villages liberated or newly restored by the guerrillas, but also break up the enemy columns. A heliport, built into the mountainside, is useful not only for aerial surveillance of sites but also for bringing fresh supplies to the garrisons and evacuating the wounded to Phnom Penh or better secured sites. The Kampuchean guerrilla, to have credibility with the people, had to destroy this enemy position located in the very heart of his stronghold. It was a matter of survival.

On the night of 30-31 December 1980, Maj Bongnig had the difficult mission of extirpating Ostroular. A surprise attack by several groups of commandos coming from different directions took place. For 5 hours both sides fought hard and losses were heavy. At dawn, the surprised Vietnamese, dislodged from their machine-gun and grenade emplacements, abandoned their position.

Personally, it took me 3 hours to scale the steep slopes of the mountain to reach the summit. In the midst of the destroyed emplacements, and the silenced artillery pieces, what a wonderful view of the jungle!

One might say that on the last day of 1980 the decisive offensive of the Cambodian liberation forces against Vietnamese positions began. The rainy season was their ally, as it lasted 5 months during which time the guerrillas, in groups of 20, hit the enemy in the towns and destroyed communications. This is the last phase, before the final offensive which should bring the liberation of Battambang, the rice granary, and Lake Toulé Sap, which has more fish than any other in the world.

These are several aspects of an unknown war, not to say a hidden war, in a place where, just like Afghanistan perhaps, the destiny of the world and the future of freedom are being decided.

The Cambodians are aware of this, and they are sacrificing everything at the altar of "Holy union," in order to win this battle against fate for themselves.

Interview with Ieng Sary

Dakar LE SOLEIL in French 11-12 Jul 81 p 15

[Interview with Ieng Sary, vice-prime minister in charge of foreign affairs, by Bira Diouf, place and date not specified]

[Text] [Question] How do you see the balance of political and military force in Cambodia at present?

[Answer] First of all, let us speak of the military situation, which seems to me the key question in the Cambodian problem. I do not underestimate the diplomatic support we are getting from so many friendly nations, including Senegal, but

we must first of all and above all rely on ourselves, on our capacity to meet the Vietnamese challenge. When our country was first invaded, our strategy rested on one main principle: contain the enemy and stop his advance. This was to be followed, according to our plans, by a second stage when forces were balanced, which would itself be followed by the final stage or "offensive phase."

But at the end of April 1981, we became certain that the first phase of our struggle, which consisted only in containing the enemy, has largely been overtaken by events. Our troops, not content just to stop the advance of the Vietnamese, liberated territory formerly under enemy occupation. We are today halfway through the second phase, the phase of balanced forces.

At the end of the year, we are going to move beyond balance of forces toward the offensive. There are many obstacles to be overcome. The enemy should not be underestimated, even though a war of aggression always ends in defeat. In Cambodia, Kampuchea will win. But we are not chauvinistic nationalists. We want relations of mutual respect with Vietnam, relations of strict equality based on friendship and noninterference. As for victory, we are certain of it.

Let us examine, now, the political situation. In 1979, at the time of the Vietnamese aggression, there are some hesitation at the base, in the people. We did not provide enough informative propaganda to the masses, preferring to negotiate with Vietnam. The consequence was that the Cambodian masses were disoriented. The people in the poorly informed towns did not understand that the objective of Vietnam was to devour us, as in Laos, as in Indochina.

In 1980, one could discern a significant change in people's minds and hearts. By the end of 1980, the rural people were moving to our side, and vast numbers of them joined our struggle. The people see us in the fields, on the battlefields, and they know that the Vietnamese troops are retreating and becoming less combative. In March 1981, the statement by Prince Sihanouk, whose reputation is still very high in Cambodia, was a factor for unity. As for the men of the "Hanoi Group" put in power in Phnom Penh by the Vietnamese army of invasion, they have no more credibility. The people know, now, that they came to the country as an occupation force.

[Question] What do you expect from the Tokyo conference and the United Nations meetings on Kampuchea in July 1981?

[Answer] In Tokyo, the support of certain organizations throughout the world which are going to speak out and condemn Vietnam. The fact that this is being held in Tokyo is a symbol of credibility. Both the government and organizations in Japan support Kampuchea and recognize it as the sole legal government of Cambodia.

Next July, at the General Assembly on the question of the aggression of which we are the victim, the UN, following Tokyo, will necessarily have to do something.

The international community now knows that 250,000 Vietnamese are militarily occupying a part of Cambodia including the capital. These people must leave; international morality demands it. You see then that it is the conjunction of the

armed struggle, on the ground, and international opinion, which will give Kampuchea the victory. The armed struggle is doubtless the base, but it is not enough by itself.

[Question] The Khmer Rouge--of which you are in a sense the heirs--is accused of having killed many Cambodians during the Pol Pot regime. You are also considered, like the communists, to be a "hard-core socialist." What is the truth?

[Answer] The accusation of genocide, three million dead, is a Vietnamese concoction to discredit us and isolate us, thereby facilitating their aggression. This accusation, however, dates from 1977. But the truth is that it was Vietnamese agents, infiltrated into our midst during the Pol Pot regime, who were really responsible for the genocide. As we were very radical at the time, the international press bought this accusation. We had against us an unfortunate combination of skillful Vietnamese propaganda, taken up and amplified by a poorly informed international press. In fact, up to 1978, our borders, because of our ideological radicalism, were virtually formed by the international press. Hard-core socialism? I owe it to honesty to admit that this was true in the beginning of our movement. That radical attitude came out of good intentions. At the time we thought we would march in step, doctrinally speaking, with the Vietnamese, in order precisely to forestall an attack on their part based on a perception that we were faint-hearted or lacking in revolutionary fervor. But we very quickly learned that the people of Cambodia rejected such dogmatism and that the vexations they suffered ran against their sensibilities and their profound love of liberty. Presently, and I solemnly proclaim it to our friends, our policy is no longer inspired by "pure, hard-core socialist revolution." It is a mixed regime, with priority given to the cooperatives we want to build. A parliamentary and pluralistic regime, such as President Senghor has built up. We ask, after victory has been achieved and the Vietnamese troops have withdrawn, that free elections be held, supervised by the UN, to guarantee the broad participation of Cambodians and the free choice of the citizens at the ballot box. If we lose, we will accept the verdict of the sovereign people. That is democracy.

[Question] May we talk now about the nature of your relations with Prince Sihanouk?

[Answer] They have improved considerably over what they were in 1979. Since February 1981 the prince has agreed that Democratic Kampuchea is the primary force in the liberation struggle which we all are waging. At Pyongyang, we had positive talks with him. We have not fixed a date for our next meeting with him. He is presently in Paris, and we have written him through the good offices of our representative to UNESCO. With the legendary patriotism which characterizes him, we can forge with him a union that will be beneficial to Cambodia. We expect a great deal of him, for we cannot exclude those who, like the prince, like us, are fighting against Vietnam for the restoration of Cambodia to its inalienable rights to independence and freedom.

9516
CSO: 4200/51

POLICE COUNTERTERRORIST PLANS LEAKED TO NEWSPAPER

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 27 Jun 81 p 38

[Text] Auckland, Today (PA)--A top-level inquiry has begun into the leaking of secret police documents to the "Auckland Star." The leak is regarded as a major breach of police security and is likely to lead to a review of procedures involving the handling of classified material.

Senior policemen say any member of the force who would leak the documents, which give details of police plans to deal with terrorist incidents in New Zealand, is "a traitor to his colleagues."

The search for the source of the leak was ordered by the commissioner of police, Mr Bob Walton, after the "Star" sought to verify the authenticity of the document with police headquarters in Wellington.

Authentic

After police confirmed its authenticity, the "Star" decided publication would not be in the public interest and told Mr Walton of this decision.

Mr Walton then appointed Detective Inspector Ian Hastings of the Auckland Fraud Squad to head an investigation into the source of the leak.

After several visits to the "Star," Mr Hastings and another detective served a search warrant on the paper's editorial offices yesterday afternoon.

Issued under the Official Secrets Act by Auckland Dis-

trict Court Judge J R Gilbert, the warrant was served on one of the "Star's" assistant editors, Mr Chauncy Stark.

Numbers

The "Star" understands the police want to find out if any other classified material has been leaked.

The paper shown to the "Star" was one of a numbered series intended to be distributed only to senior police personnel involved with the anti-terrorist squad. It was signed by Mr Walton.

The copy shown to the "Star" had had the number erased.

It is known that there are a number of equally highly classified documents in circulation.

Police are as concerned to discover if any of these have been leaked, as they are to discover the source of the leak of the material shown to the "Star."

Before serving the search warrant, Mr Hastings visited the "Star" three times to interview staff.

He was given a copy of notes taken from the classified document, which is designated "highly restricted." This is highest secrecy classification used by the police.

To protect the reporter from the possibility of having to disclose the sources of his information, the "Star" declined to hand over any material other than the notes until a search warrant was obtained from the District Court.

Warrant

On production of the search warrant, all relevant documentation was handed to Mr Hastings without the need for a search.

The reporter involved, Mr Paul Smith, has declined to name the source of his information, in line with journalistic ethics.

Mr Walton told the "Star" from Wellington that whatever the motive for the leak, if a member of the police force was responsible he would regard such an action as being "highly disloyal and criminal."

'Disloyal'

"I find it incomprehensible that any member of the police would be so disloyal as to disclose information of such a sensitive nature that it could possibly endanger his fellow police officers and other innocent persons," he said.

"There is no room for such a person in our organisation," he said.

If the investigation revealed the identity of the person, then "appropriate legal action" would be taken.

Mr Walton confirmed that the document sighted by the 'Star' was an official police document.

He said it was classified in the public interest as "restricted," and said it had been updated by another circular.

"Nevertheless, the document dated 12-2-79, remains the basis for police pro-

cedures for dealing with terrorism in New Zealand," he said.

Disclosure of the document would not be in the public interest, he said. He was relieved that the 'Star' was not planning to disclose it.

'Risk'

"To publish details of counter terrorist measures in full could expose police officers to a much greater risk through our capability, methods and equipment being known," he said.

"It could also expose hostages and the public to dangers that otherwise would not exist."

Today, Mr Hastings told the 'Star' he was "carrying on extensive investigations" in Auckland this weekend.

"Other than to say that, I can't take the matter any further than Mr Walton already has," he said.

CSO: 4220/9014

EFFORTS TO FORM NEW PARTY CONTINUE

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 30 Jul 81 p 11

[Article: "PMLs: From Unification to..."]

[Text]

EFFORTS are accelerating once again for forming a new political party, mos. probably a different one. According to sources this new party would be another faction of the Muslim League, thus raising the number of the defunct PML factions to four.

A look out for the top offices has already been started. Names of Mahmood Haroon, Mumtaz Daultana and even that of Maulana Kausar Niazi are being heard. Political observers are attaching importance to the recent Iftar party of Maulana Kausar Niazi, which it may be recalled was attended besides the leaders of the (defunct) Pagara League, by Federal Minister for Interior and Political Affairs, Mehmud Haroon.

According to political circles here this party, if it is formed, would be a first step in providing "national leadership". This could be followed by realignment of the political parties and groups.

For the last two or three months, the leaders of the various factions of the defunct PML have been trying to merge their organisations into one Muslim League. In this regard three major factions of Muslim League—Pir Pagara, Khan Qayyum and Khawaja Khairuddin group—held a number of talks but failed to merge into one, united party.

Amidst these efforts, Mian Mumtaz Daultana and Sardar Shaukat Hayat, the two prominent Muslim Leaguers who had earlier announced their retirement from politics, have become suddenly active and were reportedly leading the conciliatory moves among various groups of the League. Both have been successful in persuading Mohammad Hussain Chattha, a leader of another faction, to join hands with them.

Meantime, Khawaja Khairuddin, during his talks with Pagara re-

...told him that unification of the two factions of the PML could only be possible if the Pagara Group decided to join the MRD, an eight-party alliance of which Khairuddin's faction is a component.

Pir Pagara showed his unwillingness to accept Khawja Khairuddin's offer because of what he said was his commitment to the Jamaat-ul-Millat-ul-Islami (both parties worked out a two-party alliance in Lahore on April 1).

Meantime the JUP (defunct) Chief, Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, was in Lahore early this week. Before his departure for Karachi, he talked with newsmen at the airport. He said a grand

alliance of all defunct political parties could not be floated but "like-minded" parties could still sit together.

In this regard, he said, he had meetings with Musheer Pesh Imam, Secretary-General of the defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqlal, and Khawja Khairuddin of the (defunct) Muslim League. He disclosed that he asked both these leaders to bid goodbye to the MRD and bring their parties into the fold of the PML-JUP Alliance.

He also ruled out any contact with the Jamaat-i-Islami, the defunct People's Party, the National Democratic Party and other parties of Left.

CENSUS DATA INDICATE POPULATION UP 28 PERCENT

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 30 Jul 81 pp 1, 6

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, July 29: Pakistan's population rose 28.28 per cent to 83.7 million in 1981—up from 65.3 million in 1972.

Syed Munir Hussain, Secretary Statistics Division, told a press conference here today that the population grew 18.1 million over the eight-and-a-half-year period between the 1972 and the 1981 census. This works out a growth rate of 28.28 per cent or around 2.98 per cent a year at a compound rate.

This information is based on initial results of the 1981 population census which was held between March 1 and 15 this year all over Pakistan. The statistics for Azad Kashmir will be available later.

Munir Hussain said the initial results also indicate the population in urban areas rose from 20 per cent to 28.28 per cent during the two census periods while the population residing in the rural areas declined from 75 per cent to 71.72 per cent.

There is a slight decline in the male-female ratio. In 1972, at against every 100 females, there were 114 males while there are now 111 males.

The Afghan refugees living in Pakistan at present, are excluded from the census as well as the diplomatic stationed in the country. But other resident foreign nationals are included in it.

DENSITY

The density of population per square kilometers grew from 92 in 1972 to 106 in 1981.

Munir Hussain said the first census bulletin, which he released to the press, will be followed by more such bulletins on various aspect of the population census.

Areawise breakup

ISLAMABAD, July 29: Following is the population of various areas according to the new census (Population in million).

Areas	population	percentage increase over 1972
Pakistan	83.78	28.28
NWFP	10.585	29.77
F.A.T.A.	2.175	—
Punjab	47.11	25.28
Sind	18.96	33.98
Baluchistan	4.38	77.23
Islamabad	335	42.55

(thousand)

—APP

and the housing census. The bulletin has been prepared mechanically, while the remaining data will be processed by a computer.

A report summing up the census results, prepared by Dr Ashraf Hassan Khan, Census Commissioner of Pakistan, says that the fourth decennial population census took place from March 1 to March 15, 1981. It preceded by a full-fledged housing census which was conducted from Dec 1 to Dec 15, 1980.

The initial results of the population census have been received from the census district officers. These census figures cover the population residing in Pakistan on March 1, 1981. They do not include the Afghan refugees living

in Pakistan. They have been compiled on the level of administrative subject to revision when the individual data are tabulated.

The population of areas constituting Pakistan, at the turn of the century that is 1901 was 16.6 million. In the last 80 years, Pakistan's population has increased five times.

URBAN POPULATION

Pakistan's urban population in 1961 is estimated at 48.25 per cent. Sind is the most urbanized province of Pakistan with 43.4 per cent of its population residing in cities and towns. In Baluchistan and NWFP about 85 per cent of the population still resides in the villages. In Punjab 72.47 per cent of the population lives in the villages.

Karachi is the biggest city of Pakistan followed by Lahore, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Hyderabad, Multan and Peshawar. All these cities have a population of more than half a million. Sialkot, Gujranwala, Sargodha, Quetta and Islamabad are other growing cities with a population of more than 2 lakh.

"The census conducted once in a decade is a gigantic operation of immense national importance. The completion of this task was made possible by the unstinted cooperation of all government departments in the central and provincial governments. The most arduous work was done by the enumerators with great dedication. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to all those who worked to make the housing and population censuses of 1960-61 a great success", it says.

The second bulletin on housing conditions in Pakistan will be released in few months. It will be followed by other bulletins on literacy, age-sex data, fertility, occupation, employment etc. Our aim is accuracy and timeliness so that development projects and programmes are framed on up-to-date data for the greatest good of the rapidly increasing population.

Karachi City ranks as the largest city in the country with a 5.10 million population. Its population rose 45.18 per cent over 1972. Other major cities along with their population is: Lahore City 2.97 million, Faisalabad 1.06 million, Rawalpindi 1.05 million, Hyderabad 785,000, Multan 736,000, Gujranwala 597,000, Peshawar 555,000, Sialkot 296,000, Sargodha 294,000, Quetta 285,000, and Islamabad City 211,000 — APP

Highlights

ISLAMABAD, July 29: Following are the highlights of the fourth population census:

The figures covers the population residing in Pakistan on March 1, 1981, which was 83,782,000.

Thus does not include the Afghan refugees living in Pakistan. Diplomats are also not include.

The population of areas constituting Pakistan at the turn of century that is 1901 was 16.6 million.

In the last eighty years the population of Pakistan has increased to five times.

The growth rate in population between September 1972 when the last census was held and March 1981 after 8.6 years works out to three per cent in the case of federally administered tribal areas.

It was for the first time that census data were collected in respect of every individual.

Earlier the data used to be based generally on estimates provided by the tribal elders.

The male-female ratio works to 111 males per 100 females. It was 114 in the 1972 census.

Urban population is estimated to 25.3 per cent in 1981.

Sind is the most urbanised province of the country with 24 per cent population living in the cities and towns.

In Baluchistan and NWFP, about 85 per cent of population still resides in villages.

In Punjab also 72.47 per cent of the population lives in the villages.

Karachi is the biggest city of Pakistan having a population of 51,03,000, as compared to 35,15,000 in 1972.

The population of Lahore city is 29,22,000 against 21,90,000 in 1972 — PPI

PAN-ISLAMICS REPORTEDLY EYE UNION WITH BANGLADESH

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Jul 71 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy: "Pak. Bid To Draw Bangla Closer"]

[Text]

NEW DELHI July 1

The pan-Islamic elements in Pakistan including some influential personalities in the present martial law administration are reported to be toying with the idea of persuading their counterparts in Bangladesh to agree to a loose confederation if not a reunion of the two countries to restore some semblance of their political association in a spirit of reconciliation.

Though the professed purpose of this move is to promote Islamic unity by bringing the two peoples together despite their regional linguistic and cultural divergences there is also an anti-Indian angle to it in the sense that the whole idea can assume the overtones of avenging the humiliation of 1971 when Bangladesh broke away from the tyranny of West Pakistan and emerged as an independent nation.

As a concept it is still in an embryonic stage and will take sometime to acquire the dimensions of a credible proposition capable of capturing public imagination in both the countries in the not too distant future. But as an emotive idea it is already drawing the political hotheads and religious fanatics on either side closer in pursuit of this frenzied illusion.

The Pakistani propagandists in Bangladesh are reported to be fully exploiting the current anti-Indian sentiment to foster feelings of Islamic affinity and create a sub-conscious impression that in the event of a showdown with India, Bangladesh will have to turn to Pakistan. The more immediate objective is to both deepen and widen the rift with India and exploit Bangla-

desh's sense of alienation and isolation to draw it closer to Pakistan again.

If India is not unduly perturbed by such insidious Pakistan manoeuvres, it cannot afford to shut its eyes to the ugly prospect of a propaganda drive acquiring the character of a rampaging emotion. It has to keep a watchful eye on their wider implications in the sub-continent.

The U.S. decision to rearm Pakistan is emboldening the protagonists of reunification to talk of this as a distinct possibility that could be brought about with a bit of good luck and strong political nerve. The five visiting Pakistan Ministers and others have started talking quite openly in Dacca of the need for an emotional bridge to bring the two divided people together again.

The campaign has no military angle yet, although it has sympathisers in the armed forces of both countries, not to speak of the influential army personalities associated with the two governments. At the moment it is still in the realm of a financial idea which will take time to crystallise into a plan of action.

The sad experience of several Arab countries which experimented with the concept of a loose confederation more as a united front against Israel than as positive step towards unification does not seem to be deterring the Pakistani enthusiasts from propagating it. What is really surprising is the sympathetic response that it is evoking in Bangladesh despite bitter memories of West Pakistani political dominance, economic exploitation and savage repression.

'RECORDER' PROTESTS INDIA'S TAKEOVER OF TALPATTI ISLAND

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 30 Jul 81 p 2

[Editorial: "Rights Flow From the Barrel of the Gun"]

[Text]

For all practical purposes, the fate of that tiny spot of land, South Talpatti, close to Bangladesh coast, is sealed. Possession is nine points of the law and Mrs. Indira Gandhi is not beating about the bush to indicate that India has no intention to surrender it. Her proclamation of the resolve to keep the newly found island revokes the Indian government's earlier agreement on a joint survey for determining its exact location and, accordingly, ownership and at once closes the door on further bilateral negotiations with Bangladesh. The way it has forcibly taken over the island, is an unmistakable clue that the Indian government itself was too conscious of the moral and legal weaknesses of its claim to agree to a survey and later negotiation or arbitration. But that will be hardly any consolation for Bangladesh as a victim of gun-boat diplomacy. While it may con-

tinue to keep the issue alive in bilateral contacts or in some appropriate international forum, Bangladesh cannot realistically expect any concrete change in the Talpatti situation. It is always difficult to make a country part with a territorial acquisition; in India's case, it should be plainly impossible. India, as its record bears out, is unfortunately highly vulnerable to all temptations of glory and power—above all, territory. The takeover of Talpatti neatly fits into the general pattern of Indian politics, and India must characteristically retain it at any cost in terms of relations with Bangladesh. The more important point for Bangladesh to ponder now is: why India is so keen on Talpatti.

The island, barely large enough to accommodate an airfield and too inhospitable for human life, was disgorged by the sea at the mouth of a river on Bangladesh border some years

ago. As a big power, India staked out its claim to the territory as Bangladesh tried to reason with it that the island lay on its side of the watery frontier. Finally India agreed to a joint survey to map out the precise position of the island. But last May all of a sudden India decided to employ military means to annex Talpatti and now Mrs. Gandhi says that is the end of it. It has been given out, obviously by Indian propagandists, that the island may be rich in minerals and petroleum deposits. But that makes a bad excuse. Even if Talpatti was a mass of natural resources, the molecule that it would not be worth all that trouble and tension with Bangladesh. There must be more to Talpatti than meets the eye. An immediate corollary to its occupation will be an extension of Indian territorial waters. That would, in

effect, leave Bangladesh sovereignty restricted to its coast in the delta and deny it all rights to any off-shore petroleum deposits and even fishing which is a source of food for the coastal population. An air-cum-naval base on the island would, in the event of a confrontation, enable India to lord it over the entire delta. These are the darker possibilities that open up in the wake of Indian occupation of Talpatti. An immediate Indian purpose may be to intimidate Bangladesh into submission on the question of Farakka barrage, which has already taken a heavy toll from Bangladesh's agricultural economy. Isn't Talpatti a stern message to Bangladesh, and for that matter to all other smaller countries of the sub-continent, that India has the gun and, for sure, will readily use its gun to get whatever it wants?

'MUSLIM' CRITICIZES AFGHANISTAN'S AIRLINE HIJACKING

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Jul 81 p 2

[Editorial: "Crime and Punishment"]

[Text]

CONDEMNING the conduct of the Babrak Karmel Government in connection with the hijacking of a Pakistan International Airlines plane, the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, attending the economic summit of the seven in Ottawa, have proposed to "suspend all flights to and from Afghanistan in implementation of the Bonn Declaration (1978) unless Afghanistan immediately takes steps to comply with its obligations." The proposal refers to Afghanistan's obligation to prosecute or return to Pakistan the hijackers who are now being "harboured" by Kabul. The joint statement said that the leaders of the seven nations were convinced that the "Soviet-backed Afghanistan Government's stand is in flagrant breach of its international obligations under The Hague Convention to which Afghanistan is a party and constitutes a serious threat to air safety." The seven leaders agreed that any state which directly aids and abets the commission of terrorist acts against diplomatic and consular establishments and personnel should face a prompt international response.

The Babrak Karmel regime has won for itself since it was installed in Kabul by Soviet troops, a measure of international notoriety matched only by that of Western sponsored "civilian" junta of Tel Aviv. The atrocities being perpetrated on the innocent people of Afghanistan by Babrak's hounds fitted with Soviet claws are little different from the large scale murder of Arab people being carried out by Begin's killers equipped with the deadliest of weapons made in the West. In a short span of 18 months Babrak Karmel has been able to outdo many like him who have gone down in human history for their role in uprooting people from their homes and hearth and turning them into helpless refugees in foreign lands. Today he is considered second only to the rulers in Tel Aviv in the matter of creating the refugee problem. The drama of hijacking of a Pakistani airlines enacted by the Kabul regime was in no way less repulsive than what Israel did to Iraqi nuclear installations and other such acts of international vandalism Tel Aviv has unleashed in the past.

The very existence of Babrak Karmel regime is as abhorrant to the international community as is the existence of Israel. The Kabul regime has been censured by the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Islamic Conference with the same force with which these organisations have condemned the Tel Aviv Government. It is a matter of great satisfaction for the peace-loving people the world over and those who are directly affected that the seven leaders of the free world have openly condemned the Kabul regime for its role in the hijacking drama proposing simultaneously an effective punishment for the crime it has committed. While hoping that the seven would come up with a matching proposal during their current summit to punish Israel for its past and present violations of international law, and evolve effective measures to contain their puppet in the Middle East, it is expected that Babrak Karmel would respond to the call of the seven and immediately turn the hijackers over to Pakistan, if he does not feel up to prosecuting them in his own country.

Pakistan's stand on every question concerning Kabul has been dictated by principles enshrined in the U.N. Charter and the declarations of Non-Aligned Movement and the Islamic Conference. Islamabad has already declared that it is the obligation of the country in which the hijackers have sought sanctuary to try them and in case that country was not in a position to do so, it should hand them over to Pakistan. Kabul did not respond to this call. Now that it is faced with suspension of air services with the seven nations, it is logical to hope that it would behave more responsibly. And if Kabul returns the hijackers to Pakistan, it would certainly be regarded as a gesture of peace which might facilitate the ongoing efforts aimed at resolving the crisis created by Soviet Union's uncalled for military intervention in Afghanistan.

CSO: 4220/369

HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT URGED TO END CORRUPTION

Lahore: UNEXPLINT in English 23 Jul 81 pp 7-8

[Column: "Between the Lines"]

[Text]

UNLESS his recent startling proposal is meant to fill the gap created by the virtual collapse of the Population Planning Programme, the Sind Senior Minister's suggestion that mandatory death sentences should be prescribed for all acts of corruption makes little sense.

Mir Rasool Bakhsh Talpur's indignation and concern over the prevailing state of affairs is readily understandable. Pointing out that corruption had become so deep-rooted in our society that ordinary measures would not help its elimination, he seems convinced that only the death penalty and confiscation of the property of corrupt people could help "solve this evil". He further said that he would soon submit a report to the Sind Governor calling for implementation of his death-for-corruption programme. And he expressed the view that all other evils of our society would be cured if corruption is eliminated.

Mere rhetoric

As for his final conclusion, it can only be read as hyperbolic rhetoric. Even if corruption of all sorts could be overcome, many other social and economic problems would remain and will

have to be tackled separately through a comprehensive socio-economic plan. Nor is it necessary to declare that elimination of corruption is the cure for all problems in order to stress the grave harm that it does to the country and the heavy additional burdens that it imposes on the people. Nor will any one hesitate to commend the move that everything possible should be done to cleanse the administration and other sectors of our society where corruption has reached a level that the whole system stinks to high heaven. Further, it will be agreed that, when acts of corruption are proved, the punishment should certainly include appropriate fines, and if necessary confiscation of property, in order not only to compensate those defrauded but to make the point that, like other crime, corruption does not pay. But it is difficult to accept the rule that corruption should invite capital punishment in all cases.

Duties and rights

Over the centuries, the death sentence has often been employed to deal with even the smallest crimes, presumably in the hope that deterrence and fear would bring about reform or help to purge society of criminal elements. With the passage of time,

it was realised that, in the interest of justice, severity of the punishment must bear some relation to the enormity of the crime, and also that harsh, vindictive punishment rarely succeeds in producing the effect desired, particularly in relation to what are called crimes of poverty. Once, not very long ago, in countries now regarded as civilised even the theft of a loaf of bread was considered a fit case for instant decapitation. Other minor offences, defined as heinous crimes in order to protect property or the rights of the king and his feudal lords, used to provoke the harshest punishments. Men were sent to the dungeon or even hung or quartered for insulting or infringing the rights of their lords. What is more, apart from such 'legal action', the people's right to life and free labour were seldom protected even within the framework of the meagre laws extant, and Authority could not be questioned for misuse of the power. The whip and the knout, the dungeon and the scaffold, did not reform such societies; change came when living conditions were changed and the people's duties were balanced with their rights.

Spreading poison

Apart from the aspect of human justice, corruption is known to have a vast number of categories. Accepting that he who gives a bribe is morally, and perhaps legally, as guilty as the one who receives it, in the most common cases a bribe is squeezed out of people who are not asking for any favour but merely what is their due. For example, when the sale of a piece of land is registered, the patwari expects and receives a special fee, and so does the registration clerk. If the seller or buyer refuses to offer this traditional cut, technical reasons can always be found to delay or

otherwise mess up the transaction. Nor is such corruption confined to the revenue or registration departments. The poison has gradually seeped into almost every Government Department. Take the question of contractors' bills being approved, sanctioned and paid by the P.W.D. or like departments that handle large sums of money. How many contracts are given without expectation of a commission and how many bills are paid without a part of the sum due sticking to the hands that handle the cheques? How many suspects arrested on vague charges are told that there is only one way to prove their innocence—by providing illegal gratification to those who wield the big stick? These transactions are either conducted directly or through intermediaries who have almost attained the status of a profession. While the ordinary citizen may logically seek condonation for his crime by pleading helplessness, on the lowest scales of the administration the receivers ask for and receive what they consider to be bakhshish, because they feel, not entirely without justification, that their official pay is not sufficient for enabling them to remain alive even at a low level of subsistence. What is to be done in such cases? Surely, you cannot hang the thousands who daily make such exchanges.

Justice essential

Of course, not all cases fall in this category of give-and-take. More heinous cases come to light every day, and many never see the light of day. Many in positions of influence pay their way to get permits and licences, evade taxes, get sanctions against the law for building operations or other business ventures, and so on and so forth. In such cases, the corrupter and the corrupted are certainly guilty of grave

crimes. But even here one would hesitate to approve of the view that death is the only answer. First, as Talpur himself has admitted, corruption has become very common. Thus, if all persons known to be corrupt were to go to the gallows, Authority would have a massacre on its hands. Then, there is the danger that when such a mass operation is started, the innocent will become its victims—if only because the professionally corrupt will somehow manage to escape the net. And the threat of such dire punishment may well become another source of corruption.

Lastly, even if a few really corrupt persons — officials, businessmen or others, — are strung up, this in itself will not eliminate the curse. To achieve the desired change we need to change our whole system, ensuring that in every sphere of life justice is truly done and not delayed. And the start must be made at the top; for when the fountain-head is clean, the lower streams will be less polluted.

CSO: 4220/369

HOPES, FEARS ON CENSORSHIP EXPRESSED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 30 Jul 81 p 7

[Column "Between the Lines": "Hopes and Fears"]

[Text]

FEDERAL Information Minister Zafarul Haq's recent statement that the ban on political activities and Press censorship were correlated, even contemporaneous, and must, therefore, be dealt with simultaneously, will abate the hopes and allay the fears arising from expectations of an early end to Press censorship.

It is wholly unnecessary to spell out where the hopes rested or where fears were harboured—and why. The most vocal spokesman of the civilian part of the Federal Government has certainly projected a new aspect of the problem. Instead of discussing the advantages and disadvantages of Press censorship, its effect on the media's credibility and utility, or the fact that with the national Press concentrating on the official red peril of the foreign media get undue importance as the purveyor of news and rumours flourish, the Minister has made the issue a question of abstract principle. His declaration that there is a high of its own freedom, some will regard it as falling perfectly outside the considerable as well as not confined to political issues.

Twin bans

It is argued that since the twin bans came into force together—nearly two years ago—they are inseparable and must continue to co-exist. One simple answer to this stipulation is that if the twins came in together, it should be determined that they go out together—now. The counter answer to this is that present conditions—abroad and at home—do not permit us to indulge in the luxury of a political free-for-all. Hence, since political activity cannot be free from restrictions, the Press must remain subject to limitations. When questioned further about the advisability of the blanket restrictions on the Press, the Information Minister adroitly cut off the debate by asking the questioner not to forget that the country was still under Martial Law. However, the Minister promised that censorship would be streamlined to reduce the inconvenience caused to newspapers, and that it would be made equitable in order to remove disparities. He said that some sort of a chair was under preparation. Legislation committees would be set up, and a

ing of practices and guidelines would be laid down so that the censorship authorities are made conscious of the powers they were meant to exercise and the newspapers made aware of the limits of their ambit.

CPNE offer

The CPNE Chairman has revealed that this body had made an offer to Government suggesting that all newspapers would impose self-censorship in respect of five wide-ranging subjects.

Instead, it has been promised that censorship will soon be eased and rationalised. Opinion about the new dispensation promised will have to await receipt of the chart which will soon be circulated to all the provincial governments and to all publishers. The Minister also had his own complaints against the Press and was most worried about the fact that criminals are often treated as national heroes; the answer discovered is that they should be swept off the

daily newspapers' front pages and confined to the inside pages. He was also concerned about what he termed as undignified exposure of women's pictures which he felt bordered on pornography. Here, too, strict instructions are to be issued, so that those who indulge in such circulation-building exercises will be forced to desist under severe penalties.

The agreement

Surprisingly, the Minister had nothing to say about the Government-CPNE agreement which was finalised long months ago and which provides for a Code of Ethics that would guide the Press, subject to the supervision of Press Benches in all High Courts. This solution to the problem of the Press censorship had been widely acclaimed on all sides, in the hope that it would allow for the evolution of a Press that was both free and responsible. It will, one hopes, be given early and earnest reconsideration.

ISRAELI RAID ON IRAQI REACTOR THREATENS PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM

Lahore CHATAN In Urdu 13 Jun 81 p 5

Editorial: "The Punishment for Being Weak Is Death"

Text: The whole world condemned the destruction of the Iraqi atomic reactor by terrorist Israel, which is protected by the United States and its allies. But what is the use of this verbal condemnation? Iraq has lost its atomic reactor. Israel's terrorism is aimed not only against international laws but is an open challenge to the Islamic world. The world is simply paying lip service in condemning Israel's terrorism; no practical actions ensue. Israel will not stop its evil deeds nor will its allies change their position. The world talked against Russian aggression in Afghanistan but Russia paid no heed. Similarly, Israel will not listen to popular opinion. The only way to deal with aggression is to destroy the aggressor. The international organizations and popular opinions are just window dressing; have never succeeded in protecting a weak nation.

Israel attacked the Iraqi atomic reactor crossing the air space of Syria and Jordan. This attack showed us how weak Iraq is and also how ready and "strong" Syria and Jordan are. Iraq got punished for its weakness stemming from its war with Iran. Israel attacked Iraq knowing it could not defend itself at this time. Iran is in the same boat. We wrote at the beginning of the war between these two countries that not only would the war weaken them but that the entire Islamic world would suffer. This war was in fact a conspiracy against the Islamic countries. The destruction of the Iraqi atomic plant is a loss to the entire Islamic world.

Israel's recent attack on the reactor in Iraq, and the lack of any unity among Islamic countries indicate the weakness of Islam and the success of the anti-Islamic powers. Muslims are not following the teachings of the Quran and thus are suffering humiliation. At the beginning of the 13th Islamic century, proclamations were made under pomp and circumstance about the glorious future of Islam. But no follow-up action was taken. The dream of Islam implemented some success successfully. Afghanistan was attacked by Russia. Iran fought with Iraq and Israel's aggression came after proclamation about making the 13th Century Muslim the "Islamic Century."

Muslims do not take practical measures. What is the result? (1) Weakness and humiliation. (2) Success and power. (3) Humiliation of Muslims. (4) Success of anti-Islamic powers. People are suffering from the hands of the oppressors and they not only lost their pride but lost their country as well. Many people in Pakistan are

suffering from the "black deeds" of their own countrymen and many here are bent on burning the country. The destruction of the Iraqi atomic plant is harmful to Pakistan. Israel's attitude against the Pakistani atomic program, which started right after its destruction of the Iraqi atomic plant, is very meaningful. Be it Russia, America, Israel or India, none of the anti-Islamic powers wants to see the Pakistani atomic program succeed. They will leave no stone unturned to make their efforts successful. God is the one that resourcefulness or carefulness are not the qualities that Pakistanis strive to attain. Troublemakers and factional elements go and come as they please; nobody stops them. The results of the inquiry on the hijacking of the plane and its passengers have not yet been made public. Such circumstances as these worry a patriot and give rise to thousands of suspicions and fears.

1981

1981 4.22.81

'TIMES' PROTESTS CENSORSHIP OF PAPERS

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 24 Jul 81 p 6

[Commentary by Z.A. Suleri: "Lead on Kindly Light"]

[Text]

THE collective wisdom
of experienced interna-
tional experts have reached
the pregnant conclusion
that even while some of
the shackles of censorship
could be removed, the
national Press still stood
in need of the kindly light
of official guidance. So
the policy henceforth will
be softer—yet ironically,
the two don't meet.
Censorship is a practical
fact with censor. The
reason for irreconcilability
is obvious. Censor is
not based on any long-
range policy which can be
imagined and observed.
It is hurried in by an
immediate or contingent
situation—such as the
war, the revolution, or
the coming of things is
strange. It is shared
with a "do or die" bid. It
demands a few hours or
days of machine effort.
Then it is gone such a busy
thing.

Constant censor

...the ...

to allow a peep into its military secrets and if a leak occurs it has got to be stopped at all costs. Similarly, while one might be entertained to highfalutin enunciations on foreign policy, no Foreign Office lets anyone in on its strategic or tactical moves. Indeed quite often these moves are camouflaged—the first 500 troops into South Vietnam were injected as volunteers for a flood relief. There is no gainsaying the fact that the so-called free Press in the West is being constantly briefed by officials, either on backgrounds of events strict ly from their point of view or merely urged to construct some key facts in national interest. National interest goes a long way to set the scale of secrecy on the reality of things and consequently the tone and tenor of the newspapers.

[illegible]

military and the Martial Law administration — in other words Islam should not be in any way brought into disrepute national integrity should not be undermined, regional discord should not be promoted and while the Press should not be permitted agitation against Martial Law which is the basis of the present polity, should not be given any quarter. After giving a thorough consideration to the regimes legitimate susceptibilities both the executive and general body of the CPN agreed to abide by self-discipline in these matters. But the Press gesture need accepted it would have created a congenial climate for Government Press relations. The removal of the censor would have been a feather in the Government's lap. It would have appreciably raised its prestige especially in countries with which it is getting into closer contact to meet the Soviet threat from Afghanistan.

What is more this would not have in any way inactivated official agencies. They would have continued the every other government their normal chores of public relationing with the Press. That means a perennial source of influencing papers would have remained intact. But yet another step could be taken to make things doubly sure. The Government could set up a Bilateral Committee of senior officials to meet the Press in the Parliament

Ministry and senior Journalists to deliberate on matters which either should not be made public in national interest or where national interests require that public opinion should be guided on certain lines. Provided some coexistence is required in the Press, these measures can have the effect of establishing closer liaison between the powers that be and opinion-makers in the Press. The greater the burden of national stewardship is put on the shoulders of the papers, the greater will be their training in the art of responsibility. The high tone of the recent seminar held on foreign policy is a clear proof of the admirable restraint which editors can exercise.

A deteriorating system

But, spoonfed as it present the Press is likely to lose its creative capacity, and forfeit its genuine function to mould society. The old hands may hold on for some time but the lot of the younger generation seems pitiable. They are not set to acquiring initiative and imagination the stuff of which a Journalist is made. It is tragic to see that slowly but surely he is being turned into an errand boy of officialdom which is not the role for which he is cast. This trend must be arrested. Other wise, lead on sheep, for with the days there will be official guidance.

PAKISTAN

BUREAUCRACY ACTS TO BAR ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES IN POLITICAL LIFE

Lahore: CHATAS in Urdu 11 May 81 pp 6-8

[Article in Tajjamaal Hasaini: "Democracy and Dictatorship: Both Experiments Have Failed Here. Islamic Way of Life and Government"]

Text: In PAKISTAN experiments of both democracy and dictatorship were undertaken and they simply resulted in the loss of one segment of the country while in the other scenes of undeniable devastation are visible. The situation is very grave. Even as a first step toward democracy the question of elections seems to be beyond discussion. Although the president seems inclined to include in some form or another the representatives of the people in the government, especially with a view to bridging the gap between the people and the government, the effort has failed in the past simply because the people who were chosen for the cabinet were politically motivated.

Now the president has set up an active and nonpartisan government in the capital. This trend now seems to be prevalent in the provinces as well. Punjab is a case in point. People who were chosen for the cabinet from different walks of life are uncontroversial, either from the standpoint of their character or public service. In general, an effort has been made to choose able and patriotic people.

Next, the issue of the formation of the Central Council will come up. As the president has said, it is moving at full speed. It will play a significant role in laying the foundation of the Islamic way of life and government in Pakistan.

The examples of such an attitude are rare in world history during military dictatorships. If this experiment succeeds, many of the ills of Pakistan and its people will be cured.

The people to be chosen for the Executive Board of the Central Council should have no skeletons in their closets. Now, since the question of nomination is at hand, the candidates should be carefully scrutinized and assigned according to their abilities.

The president does not have any experience of public or political life. Only after assuming power did he establish contact with the public and have a chance to study the public climate. When he first embarked on this path it was strewn with thorns.

should be wisely avoided. The journey is still treacherous for the present administration, especially in view of the fluid national and international situation. Therefore, there is a heavy responsibility on the present administration, and it needs to be carried out with great dexterity. A way of life and government needs to be introduced that will help us forge our path toward our goals. This, we believe, can be achieved through Islamic principles.

No success can really be achieved without Islam. To create the Islamic way of life we need a propitious climate as well as people who really understand Islam. All the previous rulers paid lip service to Islam. But they created such a gulf between Islam and the people that many problems are posed for the present administration.

Who doesn't know that there are clever bureaucrats who will not even let great rulers take a single step without their consent. They are the biggest barrier in the establishment of Islamic order. The president himself, though belatedly, has taken the measure of the situation and concluded that the administration needs to be overhauled to enforce the Islamic way of life. If we had said this, the bureaucrats would have come after us. But it happens that the President of Pakistan has said it, and his words expressed our sentiments.

We want the president to know that Pakistan's bureaucracy, even in a period of 34 years, could not set the rickshaw cabs' meters right. So how can it be expected to enforce the Islamic way of life?

The fact is that greed has sapped all the sentiments of nationalism. Such is the case in many public sectors where nobody with true feelings of nationalism has loved this land.

It was in the interest of the bureaucracy not to let nationalism take root in this land. Now various ills have permeated many sectors of the society. A revolution is needed to demolish them. If the foundation of the Islamic order is not laid on this revolution, this structure will disintegrate.

The danger taking place in the world scene is extremely dangerous. To oppose this danger, no system other than Islam can prove useful to us.

We have fallen at various junctures at the path of Islam. Some are operating and some are dormant. They must never be allowed to flourish any more. We must take steps to remove them. We have been at our partners in a state of conflict and constant friction and will continue to be so.

The revolution of 1979 in Iran has shown that the new revolution needs to rise up and attack the bourgeoisie and capitalism. We stressed that education should be attached to it. The concept of Islam based on Islam can be built on it.

The revolution of 1979 in Iran has shown that the new revolution needs to rise up and attack the bourgeoisie and capitalism. We stressed that education should be attached to it. The concept of Islam based on Islam can be built on it.

According to statistics, the present day, the male literary rate is 25 percent, but the female literary rate is a mere 11 percent. In this state of affairs, how are women expected to represent the new generation? The peoples that lag behind in education—their country cannot be expected to progress and prosper.

We have seen the importance of education in this modern nuclear age. The new generation in particular needs the acquisition of modern arts and sciences, since it has eventually to bear the burden of the nation.

As education is increasing, knowledge is decreasing. As a result of difficulties in our educational system, the new generation has neither scholarly nor cultural strength. College degrees have failed to impart wisdom to our young people. We cannot possibly blame the present government for this. This problem began a long time ago. Now the system has rotted so much that no matter how we try, it simply must be discarded.

After the creation of Pakistan, it was the responsibility of our leaders to remove all the vestiges of the educational system established by the British in the spirit of Mahatmism to serve their special interest. In its place an educational system that would have produced solid Muslims should have been created.

There has been a lot of rhetoric on the curriculum and the educational system. But words alone cannot grant a course. Therefore, in the past the educational system, rather than instilling academic and intuitive awareness, was simply stamping people with degrees. Now more or less the same state of affairs continues.

For reform of the educational system, a national language was crucial. It was, however, neglected in every administration. Even if someone took initiative in this direction, the bureaucrats did not let him succeed.

If a national language had been established right after independence and used in schools and offices, we would not have had regrets today. It is our firm conviction that if a national language is adopted and is used in all phases of our life, it will enable us to evolve a national character and achieve national objectives.

Another thing important to the minds of the new generation is culture. It can in no way be regarded as Pakistani. The reality is that there has been a lack of national feeling in Pakistan, and therefore a national culture could not evolve.

The new generation has been isolated from its glorious traditions and consequently has become completely ignorant of its cultural heritage. The defects of our educational system are to be blamed. The centers of art and culture that were established during the previous administrations are still operating in the same old climate.

Our movement is working at a rapid pace for the establishment of Islamic order, but it is not aware of the values that are being instilled in our schools and centers of art and culture.

If the present rulers sincerely want the new generation, in order to shoulder the burden of future leadership, to be given the necessary education, then as a first step Urdu should be made the national language. It should be used in public as well as private sectors. And then, in the context of our civilization, art and culture, an educational system needs to be established that will follow the spirit of Islam.

9859

CSO: 4203/84

PAKISTAN

COLLEGE MAGAZINE'S PARODY OF KORAN CRITICIZED AS ANTI-ISLAMIC

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 15 Jun 81 p 13

/Unsigned article: "The Unholy Boldness"

/Text/ "What do you know, you who ridicules? Humans will be like scattered fireflies on that day and the mountains will be like cotton balls. Religious people will prosper and those weak in religion will suffer. Do you know this is a flaming fire?" This is a verbatim translation of a portion of the Koran. Not only Muslims but people of other religions would not dare to ridicule this book. But the largest college in the heart of this Islamic republic, in Lahore, has dared to ridicule the word of God through its magazine, RAWI. In volume 70, issue 1, page 76, under the heading "Our Country," it says may God forgive us for copying it!):

"What does the one who babbles know? There will be many people then like purified cotton and many holy men like scattered fireflies. Anyone using big words will be published. An active person will only make the editor angry. You understand that this will end up in the waste basket." The editor of the issue in question published this passage under the name of Ahbab, which is explained in a footnote. So these are the tasteful, well-mannered, famous, soft-spoken, talented and generous pupils who nurture the culture and elite tradition of the government college?

The names of these writers are Athar Ahmed Sayyed, Peerzada Atalmansoor, Rashid Kokab, Zia Allah, Medez Alahi and Nadim Ahmed Khan.

This issue was edited by Khalid Manzoor Bisra. The associate editor is Sulayman Basit. Prof Mashraf Ansari is the faculty adviser. The principal's name is omitted. The person who was principal of this college in 1980 is also guilty of such heresy, because a principal is responsible for a college magazine.

We cannot think much of the intelligence of people who try to parody the Holy Book. Had they been brought up properly, or had they any faith in God, they would not have been guilty of such unholy boldness. We do not think these young people are to blame. They were corrupted and used. It is evident that such unholy boldness does not require the cooperative efforts of six brains. These young people have become puppets in the hands of anti-Islamic elements present in and around the college. These elements are revolting against Islam. The editor of RAWI has called these people tasteful, good natured, initiators and so forth. It is regrettable that the government college has ridiculed Islam and God in its magazine. Our minister of

education and the president of our country incessantly claim to be the protectors of Islam, but a magazine of one of the country's largest colleges makes fun of the religion. People who go that far for such heresy would go further in other areas.

The question arises: As long as there are corrupting elements in our educational institutions, how can we expect reforms? We are sure that nothing will happen to these unsavory elements. They did all this knowing full well that they are protected. Their protectors have a lot of power. In our view this unholy writing has hurt Muslims. A large government college has made fun not only of Islam but of its teachings.

The Koran is God's word. Muslims consider any distortion of or tampering with its words a great sin. Such action in an Islamic country requires great boldness. Would a magazine of a Russian college dare to parody the teachings of Karl Marx or Lenin, even though their writings are contradictory and questionable and are criticized within some communist countries? Do these young people who have been praised by the editor also make fun of their parents?

God's word is highly sacred to Muslims. What kind of taste is this? What kind of eloquence is this?

7997

CSO: 4203/94

SPECULATION ON U.S. GOVERNMENT ROLE IN JOHN LENNON MURDER

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 30 Jul 81 p 10

[Article by "Tarantula": "CIA: The Dirtiest Trick?"]

[Text]

OVER the past few decades, since its inception, America's Central Intelligence Agency has been discovered at work in innumerable incidents and abnormal situations around the world. Perhaps, the most well-known of these are the Iranian coup which overthrew Mossadegh and the aborted attempt to invade Cuba from the Bay of Pigs. It is hardly a secret that the CIA's cobweb of covert activities is much more widespread than is often apparent. This is amply testified to by ludicrous attempts on the lives of Fidel Castro and other 'undesirables'. The applicability of the criterion of undesirability is, not surprisingly, fairly wide, extending from Heads of 'unfriendly' (i.e., Left-inclined) States to rather obscure and comparatively harmless people, both within the U.S. and outside, who are in any way considered a threat to the achievement of CIA designs and imperialist American policy objectives (which fairly often tend to coincide).

No surprise

Consequently, it seldom comes as a surprise when, after a controversial killing with possible political motives, someone or the other comes up with a theory which links the CIA or the FBI

(or both) with the murder. The most frightening aspect of the matter is, however, that such theories are not always baseless.

John Lennon was assassinated in New York last December. The assassin: Mark David Chapman, a former guard, fanatic Beatles fan, a madman—or so they would have us believe. Recently, Chapman conveniently changed his plea to "guilty" after, according to him, a consultation in his cell with God. This means that there will be no trial; no awkward questions about Chapman's background and past associations will need to be delved into. The judge will, some time in August, pronounce a sentence, and that will be the end of the matter. If attempts to link the Lennon murder to CIA activities seem more than a little far-fetched, the alternative appears to be too simple. More important for some, the present solution will leave unanswered the questions of the hundreds of thousands who, on 9th December, 1980, asked *why*?

Unanswered questions

Evidence to the contrary, though in its present shape it doesn't provide tangible answers, is far from non-existent. Some point to the similarity between the killings of Lennon and Bobby

Kennedy. For example, Dr. Bernard Diamond, who was the major defence psychiatrist for Sirhan Sirhan, is said to have been the first psychiatrist to have examined Chapman. New York is not known for its deficit of competent psychiatrists, yet Dr. Diamond was flown over all the way from California. Why? Did he have anything to do with Chapman's change of plea? Was it part of a cover-up operation? It is not unknown for assassins to be hypnotised into believing that they acted alone.

Perhaps, a more pertinent—and certainly more frightening—question is, was Chapman a "programmed assassin"? It is now well known that U.S. intelligence agencies have been carrying out experiments in 'mind control' for the past four decades. Operational 'mind control' could be utilised to create unwitting assassins—zombies programmed to kill a targeted individual upon command. This neatly fits in with Chapman's obsession with Lennon. Enquiries upon the subject by London's *New Musical Express* have repeatedly led it to researchers who point to Hawaii as one of the major centres of military-directed 'mind control' research. Not only was Mark Chapman from Hawaii, but he is known to have persistently harassed and threatened an eminent scientologist there who was known to have strong views against the use of mental patients as guinea-pigs in experiments.

And why John Lennon? According to a communique issued by the untraceable and invaluable

Alternative Information Service (AIS), Chapman was a tool deployed to kill Lennon because it was feared that the latter's return to public musical life might also herald his intended return to political life. Though neither the interviews he granted before his death nor his last album give any indication of this, it is no longer a secret that both the Lennons were systematically harassed and subjected to secret surveillance by U.S. Government agencies during the early seventies. Their association with the 'underground' ultra-Left was considered highly suspect, even subversive, as was their involvement in the Peace Movement. The Nixon Administration tried hard to prevent John from becoming resident in the USA. Though Lennon eventually cast off his political garb, he, significantly, never recanted his previous views which find expression in songs like *Power to the People*, *Working Class Hero*, *Sunday Bloody Sunday* and *Angela*. The FBI had 281 documents in its files on Lennon. Under the Freedom of Information Act only 82 of these have been released, most of them so heavily censored that 'freedom of information' sounds like a joke. Why? What are they trying to hide?

Perhaps we will never know. It is, of course, still very much a possibility that Chapman was nothing more than a lone, lunatic assassin, but somehow this no longer seems as obvious as it initially did. The truth may, as it often does, remain buried in the depths of closed minds behind closed doors.

CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION RUNS COUNTER TO ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 15 Jun 81 pp 4, 42

[Editorial: "Dangerous Distance Between Capitalists and Labor"]

[Text] If we believe the propaganda carried out for the last few years by the pro-government newspapers of Pakistan, we have to assume that Pakistan is the most affluent country in the world and all political and social events are geared toward progress. Often it is depressing even to think about our present situation. Is Pakistan being monopolized by a few families? Did we Muslims make all the sacrifices during the struggle for freedom for the welfare of a few industrialists? Is our literature destined to be the property of a few rogues? Is our culture to be exploited by intellectuals who would mold it according to their own wishes? With apologies, we would like to mention that we are not the property of the Daud Seth, Sehgal, Adamji and Valeeka families. Our existence is not for their benefit. The aid collected in the name of Pakistan is not for distribution among these families of monkeys. No nation can be betrayed simply because of its ignorance of economic know-how. There is no doubt about the ignorance of the masses about the economic system. They are not aware that it is their own hard work that fills the bank accounts of the capitalists. The banks, the laws that support this system and this production method are all designed to get money out of the workers. Imagine there are 100 workers in a factory. They work 8 hours a day and get paid for 4 hours; the remaining 4 hours they work for the factory owner. Thus the owner makes money for 400 hours of work because this capitalist system has arranged it that way. Interestingly, the worker gives up that 4 hours income to buy products of other factories while the income of 400 hours paves the way for further acquisition of pleasure and profit by the factory owner. This is the practice on which the system of capitalism is based.

How long will this system survive? How long will we be owned by a handful of families? Are we blind to the need for money? We are men of the modern world, not of a prehistoric period. The sciences have brought time, distance and lands closer. This is an important era in history and we have seen and are witnessing many revolutions. The man of this era cannot tolerate the superiority of anyone but the Creator. How long will poverty rule humanity? How long will the masses remain ignorant? How long will the politicians reap the riches and how long will a small faction of society live in luxury in the name of religion? Being beaten by some traders (Israel) in its own backyard is not a simple feeling of wretchedness for Islam nor is its association with the communists. The new generation of Muslims are hurt by these developments.

Pakistan was established in the name of Islamic religion. It was often repeated that only Islamic rules would be implemented in this nation and nobody even suspected that we would be experimenting with various ideologies in the name of Islam. For almost a quarter century we could not even decide if Islam could be of guidance for governments. Pakistan...? This country was established to follow the rules and regulations as set forth in the Koran and not for experimenting with the Islamic religion. This is a mournful situation in which people in power are trying to decide which rule is pro-Islamic and which is not. The sacred rituals of centuries of practice are being ridiculed at the hands of the so-called intellectuals. The Muslim religion cannot afford this philosophical dialog on religion. It is time for the heads of convents and the preachers of Mosques who have been living off religion to come out and tell us what steps should be taken for deliverance of the Muslim religion. How long will the existence of this religion be threatened by the snake of capitalism and how long will it suffer in poverty due to the supremacy of a handful of families? We cannot allow the money plundered from us to be given to us in the name of charity. Nor will we permit the construction of mosques with capitalist money or the celebration of birthday parties with the money acquired on the black market. The time when the poor were sacrificed for the rich is gone now. The time for demanding justice has arrived!

Pakistan is not another name for the playground of the princes of industry and religion thriving in Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Lyallpur, Dacca and Peshawar. Pakistan is the name of the process that should protect its 100 million inhabitants. Do the leaders know the present status of the masses?

Let us sample the population of Lahore. There are about 1.8 to 2 million people living there. You will find many girls waiting to be legally married even when they are past their youth because their parents cannot afford any dowery. The populace is forgetting Islamic rituals. The details of women's activities in the newspapers make us wonder if they really belong to the Islamic religion. How can we get rid of this mess created by the struggle of capital and labor?

7997

CSO: 4203/94

CONTRABAND SMUGGLING ATTEMPT FOILED

Karachi DAWN in English 27 Jul 81 p 8

[Text]

The Anti-Smuggling Organisation of Customs foiled an attempt of smuggling of ball-bearings, sewing machines, spare parts and tyres etc. worth over Rs 3.5 million under the guise of "scrap"

laden in a caravan of five trucks near Khorkhera Customs outpost, off Hub River belt, yesterday.

The goods were booked for an Iranian port (Dhufa) but were handed over to the smugglers at the Pakistan-Iran coastal border instead.

A tipster alerted the Customs Assistant Collector Shuja Shah (Anti-Smuggling) with details of the consignments having been off-loaded at the coast-line and were heading towards Karachi via RCD Highway.

The Officers of the ASO were summoned to the headquarters and divided into three parties to patrol and another to keep checking in-coming trucks minutely at the Hub River Out-Post of Customs. It was Saturday Sunday night when the operation "Scrap Caravan" began and last on Sun-

day, when a 'lead' was provided that the caravan had been seen moving along the RCD highway. Mr Shuja Shah, who was directing the operation from wireless room, immediately established contact with the patrol teams who were ordered to close in near Zero point on the highway which about 65 miles from Karachi. The trucks were intercepted near Khorkhera where the inventories of the goods were being compile until last evening.

However, the information reaching Karachi Headquarters of Customs have revealed that the goods so far recovered from 30 trucks are of Japanese and Chinese origin and would be about Rs 3.5 million. The five trucks laden with over five tons of scrap were still being rummaged closely following discovery of two false cavities in two of them having contraband items.

Meanwhile, four persons have reportedly been detained for interrogation as the search of remaining trucks continued.

CSO: 4220/370

KOREAN TRAWLER DETAINED FOR SMUGGLING

Karachi DAWN in English 29 Jul 81 p 1

[Article by Saghir Ahmad]

[Text]

A Korean fishing trawler "World Star No. 6" was detained yesterday with contraband commodities worth several lakhs of rupees.

The trawler was brought to the mooring near Baba Bhit Islands for rummaging from the high seas where she was anchored. The captain of the ship has been questioned by the Anti-Smuggling staff of Customs for his failure to declare the huge consignment of goods which included mostly "foreign liquor" packed in hundreds of crates. These were apparently meant for disposal in the local market, the Customs believed.

However, the rummaging of the trawler was continuing till late last evening. Several hundreds of crates full of liquor were recovered by the Customs and seized. The details of the seizure will be known when the rummaging party returns to the harbour, said a Customs officer.

Prior to the raid on the Korean vessel, the Intelligence Staff of the Customs had detected about 800 crates of liquor and some VCRs aboard the vessel. They had also gathered information that an attempt was being made to

dispose of that stock in the local market.

Picking up the "lead" the staff of the Anti-Smuggling Organisation went to the high seas on Monday. After verifying the information about the contraband aboard the trawler, they served the Captain of the vessel with a legal notice under the Customs Act withholding the vessel's movement until she was fully rummaged and cleared. Since the sea was rough, the Customs posted a guard on the trawler.

On Tuesday, the trawler was brought into the harbour and anchored at a mooring where the rummaging began in the afternoon. There have been no reports about any arrests so far. However, the seizure of the foreign liquor was confirmed by the Customs and the ship has been detained pending completion of investigations.

The trawler had come from Bunder Abbas with "No Certificate" of Port Clearance. As it is not a cargo ship but a fishing trawler, the presence of a huge quantity of the contraband aboard it could only be explained as an overt attempt at smuggling, the Customs said.

CSO: 4220/370

ACUTE POWER SHORTAGE PREDICTED AFTER 2 YEARS

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 23 Jul 81 p 8

[Text]

The WAPDA is making arrangements to cope with the acute power shortage which is likely to hit the country after two years.

This was stated by the new WAPDA Chairman Maj Gen. Muhammad Sufdar Butt at his first Press conference held on Tuesday.

He said that generation capacity of WAPDA power system had already increased by 340 Megawatts during 1981 with the completion of many power development projects including the third unit of Guddu Thermal Station (210 MW), Mangla's two units No. 7 and 8 (210 MW), Warsak's units No. 5 and 6 (80 MW), and Kotri (50 MW).

He said that work on various on-going schemes was in full swing which included installation of four turbines No. 5 to 8 of 175 MW each at Tunnel No. 2 of Tarbela Dam which were expected to go into production in June next year. Work was also in progress on installing second 25 MW gas turbine at Quetta. A new project of installing 110 MW gas turbine at Guddu would be launched soon. Tenders for it were being invited and the work is likely to be completed by February 1984. Plans were in hand for installing another 210 MW turbine at Guddu for which WAPDA would be seeking assistance from any quarter which offered it and would invite tenders from various countries including Soviet

Union which had installed the third 210 MW turbine at Guddu.

He said that Tarbela was going to be major hydel station. Some modification were being made to instal two 175 MW turbines at Tunnel No. 2 of Tarbela in addition to four turbines of the same capacity. It was earlier contemplated to instal one 500 MW turbine at Tunnel No. 2 but it was not considered feasible as it would have involved many technical and structural changes. Now it was planned to instal two 175 MW turbines in place of the proposed 500 MW giant turbine as it would not require any major changes. Work on the additional two turbines No. 9 and 10 had been started and it would be complete by April 1985. Four more giant size turbines of the capacity of 400 MW each would be installed at Tunnel No. 3. Necessary engineering studies and works had been started and the project was expected to be complete by 1988. Thus on completion Tarbela alone would be contributing as much as 2918 MW of power to the WAPDA power system.

The WAPDA chief pointed out that main constraint in developing thermal power was the shortage of gas and "we are trying feverishly to get a commitment from the Federal Government for the availability of gas for our future thermal plants." He said that while the Govern

ment had assured the WAPDA that gas would be available for the proposed 100 MW gas turbine at Guddu, no such commitment had been made for 200 MW turbine proposed to be installed at Jamshoro near Hyderabad. Other sources like furnace oil or diesel would have to be provided to this plant otherwise there would be power shortage in the region. He said gas had also been assured for the fourth 210 MW turbine at Guddu.

Mr. Muhammad Akram, Member Power who was also present at the Press conference observed that the country would have to live with less power for three to four winter months for some years to come. As Karachi was managing to put up with less power, so other parts of the country would also have to make similar arrangements.

He said that hydel power was saving the situation despite its seasonal variations which could be tackled either by producing more thermal power which was difficult in view of gas shortage or what he called "firming up hydel power with hydel power".

He said that for this purpose water storages would have to be built not for irrigation purpose as at present but exclusively for producing hydel power. One such reservoir was proposed to be built at Taji and other upstream of Tarbela on Indus river.

The WAPDA Chairman continued that power shortage was not unusual in Pakistan. It was a phenomenon in almost all developing countries with lack of funds and rising

demands for power. India he said was also facing similar situation and so many other countries in the region. He said that power shutdowns could not be done away with. The power supply was stopped in order to expand the lines or do some other renovation work. However power breakdowns had also the element of negligence and inefficiency of the staff.

He said that overall performance of the WAPDA was more than satisfactory. Its allocation both for water and power sectors had been increased from Rs. 415 crore last year to Rs. 548 crore this year which included Rs. 400 crore for power and Rs. 148 crore for water sectors.

The WAPDA had a programme of increasing the number of villages to be electrified from 1,000 to 1,400 this year. It had exceeded many targets last year. For example it had a target of giving 2,11,000 connections but it sanctioned 2,67,751 which included 2,54,444 general connections against a target of 2,00,000 connections. There was target of 5,000 agricultural connections and it issued 6,639 connections. Similarly 3,993 km of high tension and 2,076 km of low tension lines were added to the system. Self financing also increased from Rs. 1,346 million to Rs. 1,780 million, and revenue collections increased from Rs. 3,898 million to Rs. 4,634 million.

On water side, he said the WAPDA had completed the Hub Dam near Karachi and the Khanpur Dam was 80 per cent complete.

COTTON WORTH \$26 MILLION TO BE EXPORTED TO INDIA

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Aug 81 p 8

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 4: Pakistan has contracted to supply one lakh bales of cotton worth 26 million dollars to India, officials of the Cotton Export Corporation said here today.

A letter of understanding to this effect was signed in Bombay yesterday by A.A. Kazi, General Manager Exports of the Cotton Export Corporation (CEC) of Pakistan and N.S. Kulkarni, Chairman and Managing Director of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI).

India had requested Pakistan for more than one lakh bales of four types of raw cotton. But Pakistan has agreed to sell only one lakh bales for the time being. However, the CEC agreed to consider Indian request for additional cotton, when the present limit is exhausted, officials said.

The four types of cotton which Pakistan will export to India include Qumra Eagle Number 1424 and Number 1423.

Between 15,000 and 35,000 bales of each variety will be exported to India.

India was keen to buy cotton from Pakistan because it was the nearest point of supply, thereby providing the importing country a freight advantage. Pakistan also offered a very beneficial shipping schedule according to which most of the cotton will be shipped during September this year, while some quantity will be sent this month.

The payment by India, in convertible U.S. dollars, will be made against the weight to be checked by Indian controller.

It is for the second time that India will be importing cotton from Pakistan since 1975.

Officials said India had imported cotton from Pakistan, last time, in 1975 when it purchased nearly two lakh bales. India is a net exporter of cotton as it is surplus in long staple and extra-long staple varieties, while it is deficit in shorter staple varieties, which Pakistan can supply.

A feature favourable to Pakistan, provided in the letter of understanding, is that any dispute regarding the deal will be settled according to the Liverpool Cotton Association Rules and not by the East

India Cotton Association.

The Indian cotton mills will place their orders for import of cotton with CCI which will forward these to the CEC. The CEC will ship the consignments direct to the mills.

Pakistan, on India's request, has agreed to consider an additional order after the agreed supplies of one lakh bales are shipped. But, a decision on whether or not, CEC can sell more cotton to India will depend on the availability of the varieties asked for, officials said.

This year Pakistan harvested a bumper cotton crop, while India faced a shortfall in certain varieties of cotton.

Officials said, the overall volume of trade between the two countries on government-to-government basis was of the order of 61.3 million dollar in the fiscal year 1979-80. Out of it, Pakistan exports to India amounted to 48.3 million dollars against its imports from India of 13 million dollars. During July-December 1980-81, Pakistan exports to India stood at 47.7 million dollars and its imports valued at 14 million dollars. AFP

IMPACT OF TRAVEL, IMMIGRATION ON VILLAGES EXAMINED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Jul 81 p C

[Article by Rahimullah Yusufzai]

[Text]

At the break of dawn in this sleepy little village, an old but sturdy man occupies himself at the BATHIAK, the adjacent guest room to the house, while a young lad is sent on petty errands in and out of the house. From morning till evening they have little work to do except entertaining visitors and waiting on the women inside.

The old man's son and the lad's father are one amongst numerous Pakistanis who have proceeded abroad to improve their living standards. He keeps remitting money which is enough to sustain the whole family while much more is left unused. The prospect of the unexpected accumulation of money in the family tends to slacken almost all the members of the household. Two years back, the old man was an active farmer who extracted enough produce from his lands to feed the family the whole year. Now he is the least inclined to work in the scorching sun, and the land, having been given to another inexperienced farmer in his vicinity, has even around a yield which will offset the amount spent on inputs.

There is not an isolated case, such examples abound in our rural areas. Of more concern is the free hand allowed to the lad, who believes it is his right to command respect from all and sundry in the household, because they are dependent on his father's earnings. He has no ambition, the least interest in attending school. An excellent marksman but diverted his interests to military sports in the company of some friends, his regular friends and worldly contacts. The women tend to show little interest in their foreign state, losing no opportunity to

display the latest arrivals from Dubai. Their talk no more reflects the happenings in the nearby houses and village streets; rather, they feel more at home while talking of the distant land and its captivating charms.

This picturesque village in the Marjan district of North-West Frontier Province is a classic example of the changes wrought by large-scale immigration to foreign lands. Bounded on three sides by high hills of brown and black rock, the village is located in a BARANI (irrigated) area. The occupation of most villagers is farming, which is not at all profitable, owing to the scarce rainfall, small and scattered holdings and outdated farming practices. Till recently a large proportion of the village population had spread out to various cities of Pakistan to earn a living. They are still leaving the village in ever larger numbers, but the destination has changed. The Pakistani industrial zones attract them no more on the contrary, they are prepared to sacrifice anything to reach any one of the rich Arab states.

Immigration to distant lands by ambitious young men has been a practice with almost all communities of the world, and the Afghans from this village named Babuzai are no exception. In a short span of 15 years, its sons have made it to continents situated in almost all the inhabitable continents of the world. According to a conservative estimate, more than 400 Babuzai villagers are now serving abroad. They have manoeuvred their way into some countries through the aid of friends or relatives, instead of means to obtain the documents and visas of "legal"

Many people think that outsiders are only too willing to be lured by the lure of money and to be lured from the villages in Singapore and Malacca. The new kinds of daily use and convenience to women in villages. In fact, they have made quite a name for the trade. It would be strange how these people illustrate people communicating with the Malay women knowing not a single word of their language having landed there straight from a backward town village in Australia. They have come and they are back in the vast farms and ranches in Western Australia. They have work and income has earned them the admiration of their hosts who have named roads and villages after them to acknowledge their contribution to the country's development. In the 1960s, many industries, their country is almost the same - that of skilled and semi-skilled labourers. They are in the textile, processing in Uganda and Nigeria as textile workers in Ibadan, Kano and while in other western countries they earn on the manual jobs. Back home, they know of only two reasons to cultivate their meagre land holdings and to climb each day to the surrounding hills in search of grass for fodder and wood for fire.

Every month, lots of money flows into the village and the excited peasants learn little by little how to use it profitably. The new money has resulted in haphazard growth of the village in all directions. The desire to build anew has reached epidemic proportions. Old but strong-built and still usable houses are being demolished, everybody being in a hurry to do so. The whole place looks like one big construction site. New houses are fast coming up and there is a mad race to outsize, outmanoeuvre and outnumber the rest in this angular contest. Wages have been pushed to dizzy heights and the labourers still unable to make it to the "prized" land are having a field day. Strangely enough, the returnees from abroad are reluctant to work in their home village or anywhere else in the country now that they are rich men and can afford to hire others to do the job. It hurts their vanity to work on the "meagre" wages here, while equally condemnable is to work in front of an overgrown village populace.

The big business here is real estate but nobody is stupid enough to sell if somebody in due strain or out of vainness wants to sell a house plot or a piece of land.

There are numerous eager buyers, hence, the manifold jump in prices in formerly unworked outland. Most of the foreign earnings have been squandered away in constructing or repairing houses, arranging marriages and buying modern electric gadgets. Masters of those who are abroad, and also their kith and kin, are overwhelmed with an added tandem. The expenditures are great and guests are entertained to feasts for days running. It is taken for granted that those leaving abroad have to spend extravagantly, and the one who may resist will find himself at the receiving end of unending trades, and bad name.

Bathura boasts of at least 40 refrigerators, while the number of television sets and tape recorders is beyond counting. A few years back, these were considered a luxury and their names unheard of. The consumption of electric power has considerably increased, perhaps even beyond the installed capacity, hence the frequent breakdown of power. Television sets, most of them coloured, are lying unused owing to the proximity of high hills which obstruct the reception of programmes on the screen from the Peshawar studios. Tape recorders have become a necessity and are being repaired beyond almost every second house of the village. No less in number are other electric gadgets like washing machines, cooking ranges, fans, juicers, etc.

Large scale immigration has given birth to new customs and rituals, hitherto unknown. Those returning from abroad or going away for another term are accorded a royal welcome and a heavy send-off, with dozens of buses and cars waiting on them at the airport terminals or the railway stations. The arrival is followed by a series of feasts, and then the custom of calling at their houses by women of the village starts, which may continue for months. The returnee, overwhelmed by the enthusiastic reception, and the fulsome praise showered on them by men and women alike, making them realise that acquiring of wealth may be the only sum of life, isn't it a strange phenomenon that while they earn for themselves, they also automatically earn the unwarranted and uncalled for courteous consideration and esteem of others.

One possible route to channel the foreign exchange earnings was the digging of wells and installation of small electric motors to water the barren, unutilized land. However many accompanying problems have slowed down the earlier

enthusiasm. The water table is very deep, the irrigation pumps frequently break down and, most of all, the electric supply is erratic. Moreover, it is a most difficult job for the mostly illiterate farmers to get the electric supply sanctioned after going through the excruciating mill. Those who somehow managed to clear these formidable obstacles were rewarded with lush green fields where cash crops are grown and the water flows blue and clear in an area once known as a wasteland.

Some have taken to the transport business, but inexperience and the desire to pocket instant profits had disillusioned many of them much too soon. Those who are thinking of opening shops or entering big business in grains and cash crops, are afraid of the stiff competitive market and the tricks of the trade. Nobody knows about any government-sponsored scheme for overseas workers, and it will be surprising if any amongst them has heard the name of Overseas Workers Foundation. Even those who have deposited its registration fee of Rs. 550 in a nationalised bank are unaware that in lieu of this payment they have automatically become a member of the Foundation. Many take it as some sort of a government fee. In the absence of guidelines and experience of the prospective investors, the money is lying unused and accumulating. Many still hate to deposit their surplus money in banks, while the countless saving and insurance schemes are unlikely to appeal them. The money is thus kept in the household coffers and a male member is made unproductive and bounded by having to guard the house day and night for fear of burglary.

Villagers show little interest in agriculture and the fields are allowed to lie fallow for months altogether. Nobody is able to concentrate in his present job and frustration looms large on the faces of those who have failed to leave the country. Even the friendly and homely evening gossip in the 'hura', the men's sleeping quarters, is heard no more, and conversation invariably shifts to the riches of the Arab states. Clusters of idle young men could be seen talking of their chances to make the trip. Many will abandon their agriculture farms, sell their bullocks, even their women's jewellery, and try to buy their passage out of the country. Others will lease or mort-

gage their belongings, including houses and lands, in the process. Nothing will stop them, not even the pleadings of their elderly, less worldly mothers.

Babuzai is an affluent village by any standard. Its wealth has attracted even one of the nationalised banks to open a branch, thanks to the overflowing riyals. However, it is another matter whether all the foreign remittances are routed through it. It has obviously proved a viable proposition, otherwise it would have been closed by now, but it is certainly functioning well below its capacity. Most of the remittances are sent through the 'Hundi' system, which fetches a higher rate for the riyals and is quick. Every month a mysterious car from the tribal area visits the village to deliver lakhs of rupees remitted from one of the Gulf states, thus completing the efficient but illegal transaction which starts in some backstage cloth or general store of Riyadh, Doha or Dubai.

Affluence for the majority has brought in its wake an upsurge in the feelings of deprivation amongst the havenots. While the elder men and women may eschew their feelings of frustration by presenting a brave facade of contentment, the children cannot. Their deprivation is particularly heightened in the company of a classmate with a tape-recorder in his hand, wearing a costly watch and gold earrings, attired in bright-coloured 'foreign' clothes and followed by a retinue of admirers. There is no let-out to these feelings of dispossession, and the child suffers in silence. The exhibitionist and showy attitude of some makes the havenots more concerned of their deprivation, and it is painful. The poor have also been strained in trying to keep up with their more fortunate relatives in observing the rituals of customs.

The strict observance of 'purdah' has prevented social and moral turpitude, although the strains are certainly being felt. Many young men immediately after marrying pack off for their jobs abroad, which in most cases will mean a stay of one year at the minimum. Both the newly-weds feel the pinch of separation but the ordeal has to be somehow endured. Joint family system still prevails, although it is cracking under the new stresses and owing to the self-sufficiency of most newly married couples.

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

DACOITS KILL 8 POLICEMEN--Karachi, Aug 4--Eight police officers and men were killed when ambushed by a gang of dacoits in Jacobabad District on Sunday according to an official Press release issued here yesterday. The Press release said: "On Eid day, a large police posse led by DSP Ali Nazir of Nawabshah District was in hot pursuit of Piro Chandio gang, wanted in a number of dacoities and murders. When it reached the jurisdiction of Dodapur police station of Jacobabad District, the police party was ambushed in which eight police officers and men lost their lives and eleven received injuries. One outlaw was also killed. On getting the information the incident the DIG, Sukkur, rushed to the scene. The IGP also left for the area. Meanwhile, the Governor/MLA Zone C, has ordered a joint inquiry by martial law team under MLO-19."--APP [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Aug 81 p 8]

CSO: 4220/369

COUNTRY GETS 15 MILLION IN JAPANESE GRANTS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 17 Jul 81 p 6

[Text]

THE PHILIPPINES and Japan signed yesterday three notes covering Japanese grants totalling 3.35 billion yen (\$14.7 million) to finance various development projects in the country.

Acting Foreign Minister Manuel Collantes and Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Hideo Tanaka signed the three notes at ceremonies held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Three projects that will benefit from the Japanese grants are the Petrological, Mineralogical and Geospherical Services Laboratory, the Philippine Social Science Center and the Southeast Asian Minister of Education Organization Center for Innovation and Technology.

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THE PROPOSED petrolab project with a granted fund of 1.03 billion yen (\$4.5 million) is expected to enhance the capabilities of the

natural resources ministry in serving the mining industry in petrological and mineralogical analysis.

The amount of 1.3 million yen (\$5.7 million) on the other hand, will go to the construction of the Philippine Social Science Center, which will be a symbol of social science research and training within the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

The SEAMEO Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology has a granted fund of 1.02 billion yen (\$4.5 million). The facilities of the Innotech is expected to upgrade training programs.

Collantes, in his remarks during the signing ceremony, said the assistance package from Japan is "another manifestation of the close and friendly relationship existing between the Philippines and Japan based on sound and constructive cooperation in the economic social and cultural fields."

CSO: 4220367

LARGE-VOLUME CONSUMER GOODS SMUGGLERS TO LAOS ARRESTED

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 26 May 81 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] Eight Thai smugglers were arrested by the police as they were loading a boat with 40,000 baht worth of hardware and food to be sold in Laos.

A reporter for DAO SIAM assigned to Ubon Province reported that at 8:00 hours on 24 May Police Capt Sanit Silathong, the inspector assigned to the Khongchiam District Police Station and acting chief inspector, heard from some good citizens that a number of Thai people were secretly taking hardware and food in a boat across to the Laos People's Democratic Republic. They were doing this from the bank of the Mekong River near Huamaktai village, Khongchiam Subdistrict, Khongchiam District, Ubon Province.

After hearing this report, Police Capt Chao Thanomrat, station inspector and Police Sub Lt Sakda Miphadung, the station duty officer of Khongchiam District along with a number of other officials hurried to the site and found about 20 Thais loading goods into a long-tailed boat. The officials arrested eight people and seized the goods. The rest of the people fled. It was later learned that the eight accused were: Mr Sanong Charakhan, Mrs Prang Charakhan, Mr Somchai Khomkham, Mr Prasoet Somsiri, Mrs On Bunthan, Mrs Mu Phungtang, Mr Tui Chotirat, and Mrs Sa Thong-on. They are all residents of Paktai Village, Khongchiam Subdistrict, Khongchiam District.

The contraband goods consisted of six bundles of nylon rope with each bundle containing five coils, two large bags of thongs, two gunny sacks of flavor enhancer, two large boxes of detergent powder, 20 dozen bars of soap, 500 rice steamers, and 300 spools of thread. All together these items were worth about 40,000 baht plus. On questioning, the eight admitted that they were smuggling the goods to Laos because they could get a good price there and that they had done it many times already. The officials detained the eight and will try them later.

Later at 1600 hours on the same day Mr Ban Kotkaeo, a resident of Mai Village, Khongchiam Subdistrict, Khongchiam District told Mr Chi Khambunruang, headman of Woenbuk village, Khongchiam Subdistrict, Khongchiam District that he had found the body of his younger brother, Mr Anan Kotkaeo, aged 25. He had been killed and the body had floated ashore at the bend in the Mekong River at Woenbuk Village. Mr Chi took this information to Police Sub Lt Sakda Miphadung, the duty officer at the Khongchiam District Police Station. After receiving the report the officials hurried to investigate and examine the corpse.

SERIOUS BUFFALO SHORTAGE ANALYZED

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 8 Apr 81 p 5

[Article by Warin Prikanon: "Water Buffalo and the Thai Economy"]

[Text] "Water buffalo" are important for farmers and farmers have a close relationship with them. Farmers depend on "water buffalo" for important work such as plowing, pulling wagons and many other things. A farm family which just has enough to eat raises water buffalo for work and also to eat.

Until now a "water buffalo" was just a "water buffalo" but "water buffalo" have become an important export problem. Because they are so important for farmers and the Thai people, there should be many in Thailand but appearances are deceiving. According to statistics recorded earlier by the Office of Agricultural Economics of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives the number of water buffalo appears to be almost constant. It went from 6.53 million animals in 1975 to 6.55 million animals in 1979. It increased only .15 percent. The number of water buffalo in Thailand is not sufficient and they must be imported.

Water buffalo are raised in all parts of Thailand, but the large source for water buffalo is the Northeast in Udon Province, Khonkaen Province, Ubon Province, Nakhon Ratchasima Province and Surin Province. The "water buffalo" raised in Thailand are predominantly the native breeds of which there are two.

"Swamp Buffalo" are raised throughout Thailand. They have large hooves, long hair and a "v" shaped under-jaw. Their chests and ankles have long hair. They have small testicles. The females give about 1-2 liters of milk a day. They are suitable for plowing.

"River Buffalo" are the Mura breed. They are called Negro Buffalo. They have small hooves and do not have long hair. Their testicles are larger than the swamp buffalo's and the females give about 8-16 liters of milk per day. They like water which is not muddy or canals. They are preferred for milking. There are very few in our country.

The primary reason the number of water buffalo is decreasing is that the government has not really encouraged the raising of water buffalo. Even though the importance was understood and a plan was made, nothing was done to carry out the plan by the Office of Domestic Animal Development of the Northeast.

The reasons that the plan lagged and did not meet its goal in 1980 are summarized here. The foreign experts invited as advisers set the goals too high. They did not use correct data and set too short a time period. They hurried too much. There was no cooperation with field working teams and there was a shortage of officials.

Pasture land and grazing areas are limited and they are getting more so because the farmers are using the land for crops more and more.

Cultivation techniques are changing especially in Central Thailand where labor saving devices such as "iron buffalo" cultivators and tractors have reduced the importance of "water buffalo" until they are almost gone. This has caused farmers to decrease their use of water buffalo. Even though some of the farmers use labor saving devices such as tractors and cultivators instead of buffalo, in some localities especially in the Northeast, the farmers are generally poor and so the demand for and use of water buffalos is still increasing especially with fuel prices for the labor saving machinery rising constantly. This played a part in inducing some farmers to revert to using water buffalo. The Office of Agricultural Economics of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives estimated that in the years 1978-1979 the demand for buffalo increased 2.7 percent per year.

The unequal distribution of income causes the gap between the rich and the poor to widen as prices rise constantly. This creates the problem of water buffalo thefts in the countryside especially in the Northeast.

The water buffalo market system in this country does not induce farmers to improve their methods for raising water buffalo; water buffalo are not sold according to the quality of their meat. The water buffalo which are sold for meat are old and have been used for work or are not needed for work anymore.

The demand for water buffalo as meat is also rising as the population increases. The quantity of buffalo meat consumed increased in the years 1965-1976 at 4 percent per year. It is estimated that the demand in the years 1977-1988 will increase at the average rate of 8.59 percent per year. That is it will increase from 1.6 million head in 1977 to 3.9 million head in 1988.

The result is that the price for water buffalo on the Bangkok market is high. The wholesale price for water buffalo meat in the years 1976-1978 averaged 8.92 baht per kilogram. It increased to 10.06 baht in 1979 and to 11.75 baht per kilogram in 1980.

The wholesale price for live water buffalo on the Bangkok market averaged 4315 baht per head in 1979 and about 6000-6500 baht per head in 1980. In some localities in outside provinces the price per head rose from 10000-15000 baht. The cause of this price rise is the rise in the price of oil which increases transportation costs as well as other costs. The rustling of water buffalo across the Kampuchean and Burmese borders decreased as a result of tensions along these borders, which also increased demand and drove up prices.

All this makes it clear that in the future the price of water buffalo must continue to rise. The quantity of water buffalo is still not sufficient to meet market demand, and gradually production is decreasing. No matter what the cause is, it is

the duty of the government to swiftly promote the increase of water buffalo production.

Even if the importance of this is seen and a plan is developed, still production increases under this plan will not be possible at this time because cooperation is lacking among the various government sectors.

As a result of these factors any increase in water buffalo production will not be quick enough to meet market demand and farmers' needs. Most farmers are poor, and especially with present fuel prices for machinery rising, farmers can see that the once spurned "water buffalo" has an important role to play again.

The government should speedily improve the production process to keep up with market demand. This will have to be carried out in many sectors together because raising buffalo and increasing their numbers will take more time than for other animals, which means that increasing the number of buffalo to meet demand will be difficult. The things which should be done are as follows. The system for raising water buffalo should be quickly improved so that it is like that of domestic animals; they should be raised in a more serious manner than they are now. The good breeds of buffalo should be expanded and be available to farmers and those raising buffalo. Their fodder and fields should be improved. A mobile school to teach animal husbandry should be set up. There should be more cooperation with the private sector. The government should act quickly to suppress the stealing and illegal slaughtering of water buffalo. The market should be improved so that it has more influence than now. The statistics on water buffalo should be checked so that there is again good data on the numbers of water buffalo in the country.

It is hoped that the government will quickly develop water buffalo so that their quantity and numbers [as published] will increase more than they are now. If this is not done Thailand might not have any water buffalo in the future. And there would be no way for people to know what "water buffalo" were like.

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